

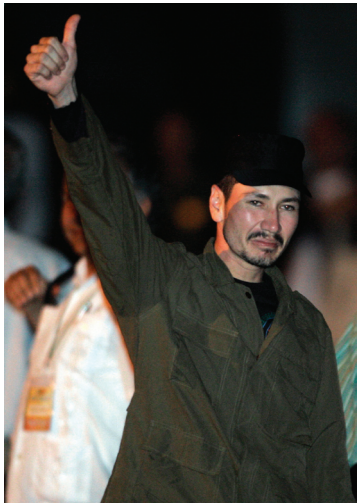


**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**
US\$ 41.68

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

HOSTAGE RELEASE



Former hostage, police officer Alexis Torres, gives a thumb up in Villavicencio, Colombia, after he was released by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009. Colombia's FARC rebels handed over three police officers and a soldier to the International Red Cross in a mission marred by accusations of military interference.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

RAFA-LATION!



Spain's Rafael Nadal holds the trophy after beating Switzerland's Roger Federer in the Men's singles final match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

See *Sports Today*

South Beach Centre continues to explode with new entities

Segafredo throws an opening reception



SOUTH BEACH CENTRE – Segafredo hosted an elegant, under the stars opening reception this past Friday at the South Beach Centre in Palm Beach. The popular coffee chain, already operating an outlet at the Reina Beatrix Airport called upon the Bingo Restaurant catering experts to serve butler passed hors d'oeuvres on the plaza, while guests were being received on



the red carpet by Segafredo Vice President Paulo Evangelista, Aruba General Manager Maarten Alberts and

Sartini Kousemaker, who are going to be in charge of three outlets; two in Aruba and one upcoming in downtown Curacao.

The van Romondt family members were also on hand

to welcome guests and share delicious cocktails and specialty coffees with many movers and shakers from the community, business people, and the local press. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



Premium Chicken Line
Crispy or Grilled



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Kremlin Wilford promoted at De Palm Tours

ORANJESTAD - De Palm Tours recently promoted Mr. Kremlin Wilford, for his excellent work, enthusiastic and willing to learn character all attributed to his promotion. Kremlin Wilford was

promoted from Diesel Mechanic Helper to Diesel Mechanic. Kremlin was born in Trinidad and moved to Aruba in 1990, he has worked at Burger King, Valero and Ogden where he worked for ten years.



His hobbies have always been Mechanic and auto technician, most of these areas he has learned on his own.

On November 21, 2007 Kremlin joined De Palm Tours Maintenance Department as Diesel mechanic helper, however with his character of always willing to learn and great working performance Kremling is now a Diesel Mechanic. He has also completed successfully a course on Air-conditioning maintenance. What he likes the most of his job is the working environment, gaining experience and learning new things everyday.

De Palm Tours is proud of having an excellent employee as Kremlin Wilford. Wishing you the best and success with your new duties and responsibilities. □

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I	512	2 / 2	5 th	\$745K
I	514	1 / 1	5 th	\$355K
I	124	2 / 3	Ground	\$750K
I	423	2 / 2	4 th	\$550K
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Don't drink &

DRIVE

Aruba Home Sellers Will Reduce Their Listing Prices By Up to 10 Percent between February 1 – 10, 2009

Coldwell Banker Aruba Realty - Launches A 10-Day Sales Event



ORANJESTAD - The Coldwell Banker Sales Associates Surveyed Say a Modest Reduction in Listing Prices Will Help Bring More Home Buyers and Sellers Together Coldwell Banker today announced a bold initiative to bring home buyers and sellers together and help jump-start the real estate market in Aruba. Starting on February 1st, 2009, the world's oldest residential real estate brand will kick-off its first "10-Day Sales Event" – during which participating home sellers will reduce the listing prices of their homes by up to 10 percent. The Coldwell Banker Aruba Realty 10-Day Sales Event will run through February 10, 2009. "The residential real estate market in Aruba has been showing several positive signs over recent month that could be signaling a tipping point," said Dick A. Sougé, the representative of Coldwell Banker in Aruba. "Because of higher inventory, buyers have more homes to choose from and they can take advantage of affordability levels that

are the best they have been in years." "Yet our research and discussions with other brokers and sales associates shows that sellers remain reluctant to list their homes at the proper prices necessary to attract buyers. It's our hope that the Coldwell Banker Aruba 10-Day Sales Event will move buyers off the sidelines and into the market. We are embarking on this initiative – which has never


been done before in Aruba, because we believe it is critical for Coldwell Banker Aruba, as industry leader, to help serve the needs of those individuals listing homes with a Coldwell Banker broker and to help move the Aruba real estate market further in the right direction." "Our sales associates agreed that, even in the current climate, it will not take much movement to attract those buyers who have been watching and waiting. Depending on the market, a price reduction of just 10 percent or less just may make the difference in both satisfying sellers and buyers

at the table." Coldwell Banker Aruba is joined in this 10 day sales event by the Platinum team of the Aruba Bank. The team of the Aruba Bank is available the during office hours (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) at the offices of Coldwell Banker Aruba at the J.E. Irausquin Blvd 12 (across from the Divi Tamarijn), to give advise to residents and non-residents on the best mortgage solutions for each and every Coldwell Banker customer. More information on the 10-Day Sales Event is available at the Coldwell Banker Web site www.coldwellbanker.aw



WATERFRONT CRABHOUSE
Monday Special
MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT
 Caesar Salad with fresh Caribbean Shrimp and Mandarin orange slices
 The GIANT crab sampler includes Alaskan King Crab Legs, snow crab legs, fried soft shell crab, stuffed crab back, Maryland crab cake, lemon, tartar sauce, and drawn butter
\$ 34.95 + 15% S.C. + 3% Gov. Tax
 Served with rice or baked potato, sour cream, Caribbean polenta and garden vegetables, freshly baked corn bread, soft dinner rolls and Dutch butter.
WATERFRONT CRABHOUSE, Renaissance Marketplace
For reservations call: 583-5858 OR 582-0184
 This offer not valid with any other offer or coupon


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Driftwood Restaurant
 Authentic Aruban Seafood



Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)
 For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.
www.driftwoodaruba.com

* Not valid with any other promotion.

Larimar Spa Exemplifies Cultural Diversity



PALM BEACH — Guests vacationing on Aruba and visiting Larimar Spa at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa often comment on the great service they receive, rendered by therapists of many diverse nationalities. “It is our secret to success,” says Spa Director Bruce Cavan, “the service and treatments are indeed amazing, thanks to the



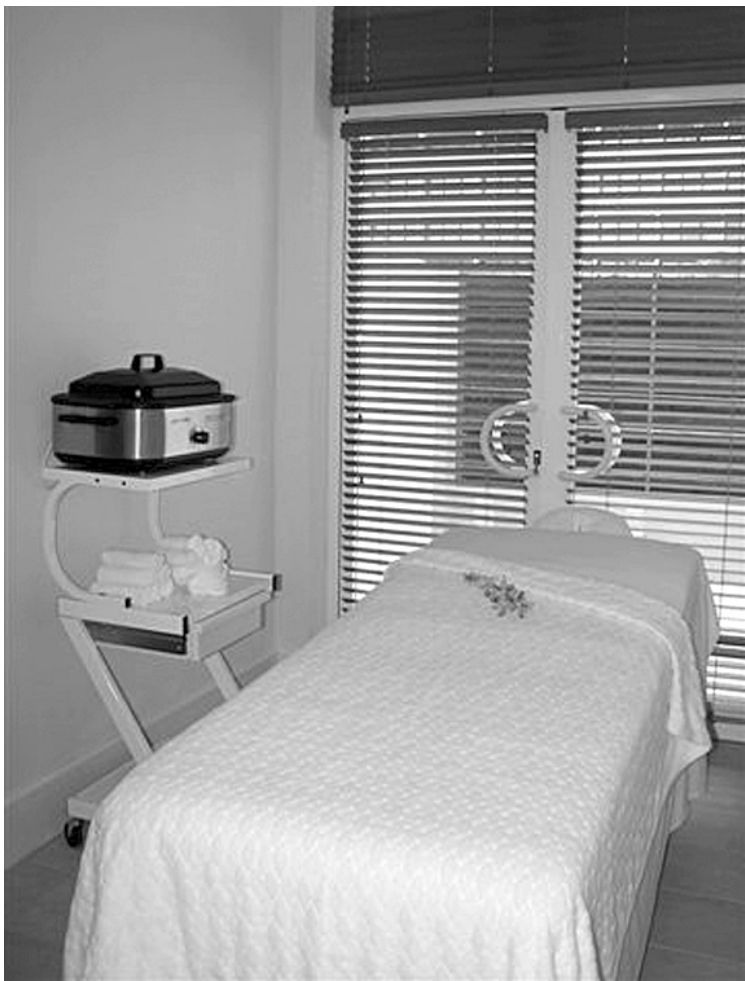
magical thing about Aruba, and its many different cultures.” The associates at Larimar Spa hail from 12 different countries having found a home on Aruba and having been trained locally in massage and esthetics. Some bring with them knowledge from other parts of the world, including techniques and ideas from all corners of the globe, which keep the menu of treatments fresh and innovative. The spa also conducts regular product and technique trainings, as well as many reviews that enhance the pool of talent and hone the collective skills.

The unique charm and personal warmth of Larimar Spa’s multinational family atmosphere is apparent in the Larimar Spa experience. “We invite you to feel and see for yourself our special environment that only Aruba’s cultural diversity can create,” adds Cavan. Larimar Spa also offers Larimar Spa vacation packages which include: Accommodations, Spa treatments, and a welcome martini. Named on the Condé Nast Traveler HOT LIST, Larimar Spa provides



the perfect sanctuary from stress, worries and the hectic every day life back home. Larimar Spa offers a variety of massages, advanced skin care therapies, exfoliating,

nourishing and detoxifying body treatments, in 13,000 square feet of indulgence with nine treatment rooms, a full service salon, and state of-the-art fitness center. □



CARNIVAL SUPER DEAL

With purchase of any Large Value Meal you will receive a **FREE BK™ Carnival T-Shirt!**
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This offer is valid until February 22nd, 2009. While stock last. **HAVE IT YOUR WAY!**
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MooMba Beach gets great write-up in Caribbean Travel Magazine



MOOMBA BEACH - The hottest spot to cool off on Aruba, got a great write-up in the latest Caribbean Travel Magazine. Written by Bob Friel and accompanied by a photo of night-time action at MooMba, the story starts off poetically. 'A drinker's dozen of the Caribbean's sandiest, saltwater-cured, breeze-cooled, unapologetically unambitious temples of seaside celebration,' is the heading. Then it continues: 'Does the English language possess a more beautiful compound noun than 'beach bar'? I think not... Each word an idyll, together paradise. And so utterly Caribbean.'

The introduction then goes on with an imaginary Arowak Indian discovering happy hours and lazy beach life. The Arowak, named Mellow perhaps, is sharing his views, beers and companionship, while toasting the sunshine. Half of his friends claim to see the

green flash.

Then the beach bar concept is methodically dissected: 'no meet markets, wet T-shirt contests or Jello-O shots. A quick drink would be an affront to the very essence of a Caribbean vacation.' MooMba Beach then gets

mentioned: 'By Day MooMba is the south coast of Aruba's epicenter of idle. The sunny beach, turquoise water and shady stand of divi divi trees make for a fine, lazy-lazy atmosphere.'

But as afternoon turns into evening, nearby resorts squeegee off their sunscreen

and come over to dine and party.'

The piece ends with some advice: 'MooMba is only closed for seven hours every day, so come prepared to put in some quality time.'

To look up the write-up, surf to www.caribbeantravelmag.com. A great promotion! □

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for Any Body



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**Enjoy Aruba's
 CARNIVAL**



Indiana couple choose Aruba to celebrate 25th Anniversary



ORANJESTAD - Bob and Kim Maller celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Aruba. The Mallers are from Bluffton Indiana and have two children Diane (21) and Mark (19). They met in their church young group in Bluffton

Indiana and have been happily married ever since. They go to the lakes a often and to Florida once in awhile. They have a goldwing motorcycle which they ride together all the time with their friends Kent and Kim Gerber who celebrated



their 25th wedding anniversary last year on Aruba. They decided to all come down this year together and they are loving every minute. The Gerbers and the Mallers are staying at the Marriott Surf



Club and they will be here for 2 weeks. Congratulations to Bob and Kim Maller from you friends at Aruba Today. □



Aruba's Carnival 55 dance, laugh, enjoy



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Sunscreen SPF 30**



Aruba Aloe™
**Very Water Resistant
Sunscreen Faces
SPF 30**



Aruba Aloe™
**Very Water Resistant
Sunscreen Babies
SPF 30**



Aruba Aloe™
Lipbalm SPF 15



Aruba Aloe™
**Aloe Vera
Cooling Gel**



Aruba Aloe™
**After Sun
Skin Repair Lotion**



Aruba Aloe™
Burn Aid Gel

don't worry
we will protect you
against the sun



Get your sun products for the Carnival parades at any of our Aruba Aloe stores, located at the Renaissance Shopping Mall, the Paseo Herencia Mall and the Aruba Aloe Factory. For more information contact + 297 588 3222 or visit www.ArubaAloe.com

Cool Breezes, Fabulous Cuisine, Stars on the night sky, And You... The most delicious way to have dinner as the sun sets

Red Sail Sports teamed up with the **Hyatt Regency and Marriott Resort** to create an unforgettable **Dinner Sail experience**. Sure to be the highlight of your Aruban holiday, this **Dinner Sail takes place this coming Wednesday and Thursday from 6 – 9 pm**.

Specially priced at \$95 per person, the Dinner Sail offers excellent value as it combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by



award-winning chefs. Dinner includes appetizers, salads, main courses and dessert selections. Champagne, red and white wine and beer is served along with an open bar which offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask for a Captain's Special!

Wednesday's nights Dinner Sail features a traditional Caribbean themed buffet catered by the chefs from the Marriott Resort. Thursday's night Dinner Sail features a buffet with a Mediterranean twist. Whichever night you choose, you're sure to enjoy a unique dinner experience. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans. Set sail and join Red Sail Sports fun filled Half Day Luncheon or Antilla Snorkel Sail. These trips are safe for kids of all ages and bring you to the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkeling spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset – truly the best way to watch the sun go down while on your Caribbean holiday. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports.

Learn to dive in one day with the Discover

Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

**To make reservations
call 586-1603
or go to www.redsailaruba.com.
Be sure to visit one
of Red Sail Sports' stores for the
latest in swimwear, beach essentials,
T-shirts and souvenirs.**



Chef says; "Only the highest quality will do" Nobushi serves up the finest SUSHI



PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

**Call: 586-2211 or ask
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Every dish a surprise to the senses

Moby Dick's; Directly from the Seas to your Plate



PASEO HERENCIA – artwork, amazing glass Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with

carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu



promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want,

whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More
information and
Reservations
Call: 586 8333**



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7 p.m.

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\$4-\$8 LIMIT
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MUST PLAY TWO (2) HOURS

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**Located at the Holiday Inn
Where There's Always A Game**

Casa Tua means Your Home, and they mean it

A recipe perfected over thirty years

Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours.

Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

**Casa Tua Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown open
from 11am to 11pm, on
Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.
For more information or
reservations
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695**



“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00.

Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177.

Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space.

Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



At the Crystal Theater

“Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

dance.

“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □





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PASEO HERENCIA MALL ARUBA TEL: 5868443

Digicel Allies with Ezetop to Launch Online Top-Up Service

Digicel, the largest mobile operator in the Caribbean region, has partnered with ezetop - a specialist technology service provider, to launch a one-stop online top up service.

According to the company, Online Top Up from Digicel is quick, easy to use and will be available to any customer who lives in any of Digicel's 31 markets. The company's Caribbean and Central American markets include Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, El Salvador,

French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos.

Customers simply log on to the Digicel website of the country where that customer resides. They then follow the free and simple registration process, and their top-up is applied directly to the Digicel customers' account in seconds.

Digicel's online partnership with ezetop complements the existing distributor

relationship with ezetop which enables people abroad to recharge Digicel mobiles from any country in the world.

Digicel's Group Commercial Director Brian Finn, said:

"Digicel has once again partnered with ezetop to develop a state-of-the-art top-up service for our customers.

Digicel Online Top Up is a simple, quick and secure method of topping up your mobile phone. In fact, anyone across the world can use the service to send credit to family and friends in any of our 31 markets



Digicel Group Commercial Director Brian Finn: "Digicel has once again partnered with ezetop to develop a state-of-the-art top-up service for our customers.

Canadian couple loves Mambo Jambo



ORANJESTAD - Lizette and Gilles Parent are from Canada and they have been loyal visitors of Aruba from more than 10 years. Lizette and Gilles are pictured enjoying an

afternoon at one of their favorite locales Mambo Jambo in downtown Oranjestad in the Royal Plaza Mall. □

worldwide." David Shackleton, ezetop's Chief Operations Officer, added: "We are delighted to have successfully deployed our cutting edge technologies

with Digicel, a leading mobile operator group working in more than 31 countries around the world; a proven testament to the scalability and flexibility of our platform." □

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Open from
8:00am - 9:00pm
Everyday

Aruba Real Estate makes the New York Times' "Great Homes & Destinations"



THE NEW YORK TIMES—The international real estate section of the famed New York Times publications featured a house for sale in Aruba, on Malmokweg, titled "Luxury Near a Beach." The beautiful house of 4,950 square feet with swimming pool, landscaped gardens and ocean views, was nicely photographed and described in detail including the island's real estate market overview. The article stated that over the past decade, prices on Aruba have risen by 30 to 40 percent, depending on location.

Two local realtors contributed to the article, Susan van Lier, owner and director of Sunshine Real Estate, and Muna Habash owner and director of MPG Real Estate.

Both brokers stated that housing prices have not yet fallen in Aruba, and Hilde Rodriguez-Taekema, a civil law notary, added that the market has cooled considerably.

"We see a lot of buyer insecurity," van Lier said, referring to the slowdown. "We have a lot on the market right now — more than ever." When interviewed by reporter Lisa Keys Habash explained that housing prices vary widely and properties sell on average for \$80 to \$120 a square meter (\$7 to \$11 a square foot) — but can reach as high as \$4,000 a square meter, or \$372 a square foot, for new construction in Aruba's Noord area.

The article goes on to

inform that the majority of foreign buyers in Aruba come from North America, Venezuela and Colombia and that among European buyers, the Dutch are the most common. Most foreigners buy homes in the Noord area.

It also mentions that there are no restrictions on foreign buyers here and that many properties have "long leases," which cost \$700 to \$800 a year for new construction and last for around 60 years. Nonrenewal of a land lease is extremely rare, and 80 percent of Noord is long lease, van Lier asserted. Habash declared that most properties allow 50 percent financing, but mortgage



interest rates usually run around 10 percent and most foreigners pay in cash, and buyers should estimate paying a transfer tax of 6 percent on properties over \$140,000, as well as a 1 percent fee for notary and registration costs.

Most buyers use a civil law notary appointed by the government to negotiate the purchase of a home, Rodriguez-Taekema added and that the notaries on the island guide both parties to the closing with the same impartial position. □



House For Sale



Balashi 5 (W.E.B. area)
On your way to Palm Island

RE/MAX

A nice 2 story house that features 3 bed/2 bath and a big apartment. Asking Price US\$ 334.270

Maureen Thijzen
739-1000


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Morgan's Island award prizes to winners



EAGLE BEACH – Local residents Adeline Gomes was the first-prize winner landing a free weekend stay at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, Rajesh Challoni received four entry tickets to Morgan's Island Aqua Park while John Patrick Nuboer walked away with a specialty tee-shirt and gorgeous beach towel. The lucky winners visited Morgan's Island Aqua Park on Betico's Day, January 25th and participated in the raffle. There to congratulate the winners on their good fortunes, were

Morgan's Island members of management Sergio Gallero, Lila Croes and Tony Ponson. Morgan's Island, Aruba's brand new water park opened recently offering a wet and wild experience to kids and kids at heart.

Venezuelan investors Sergio Gallero and Sami Sheero of Impact Holdings NV and their Aruban partner Leoncio Croes, created a 26,000 m² park in order to provide much-needed family entertainment for locals and visitors.

Morgan's Island Aqua Park

features two slide & tube towers, the Dragon Revenge and the Buccaneer Tower with slides, 2 and 4-person tube rides, radical twists and kamikaze dips, domed funnels, an extreme competitive toboggan, and a 21-meter vertical drop, of the second tallest, second fastest, single-person, free-fall waterslide in the world.

A giant kid-dedicated zero-entry pool area with water



spouts and slides, is designed to entertain the young ones, around the clock.

Don Tom NV, an Aruban company owned by Don de Veer & Thomas Miter is operating three excellent food outlets, the Black Pearl, a self service restaurant, the Jack Sparrow Bar and a dessert, coffee and ice cream terrace. Morgan's Island Aqua Park features giant double wave pools, with a wraparound lounging area for parents and family members, showers, changing and locker rooms, a game parlor and an infirmary. The park employs highly-qualified and trained associates, including resident

life-guards at each of the pools and medical personnel.

The fully automated park, with modern parking, entrance and exit facilities and the El Corsario souvenir shop is affiliated with a worldwide organization of water parks and enjoys the endorsement of similar attractions anywhere in the world from Mexico to Spain.

With an investment of 14 million dollar the park is the biggest in Latin America and aims at entertaining kids and adults during the day and romantic couples at night with soon to be announced disco dancing around the double wave pools. □

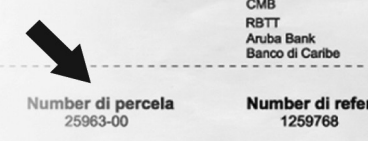


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OBAMA BUYS THE BUSH BAILOUT

By Maggie Gallagher

President Obama, taking a break from sucking up to world opinion on Arabic television, has a word for those big, bad corporate executives: Stop buying corporate jets and redecorating your offices! Or else!

Or else what?

The stereotypical Rush Limbaugh listener's Pavlovian response - "Bad, bad Obama for interfering with the free market!" -- misses the point.

The president is not punishing failed and spendthrift executives. He is rewarding them with billions -- nay, trillions -- of taxpayer dollars.

Obama is betting that a little ritual public humiliation will distract the public's attention from the really key fact: The plan to shovel money to failed corporate executives is now Obama's and the Democratic Congress' plan. Yes, I know it began as President Bush's plan, but Obama and the Democrats have eschewed change in favor of continuity with one of George W. Bush's worst ideas. And there's only one question Americans really care about in the new "recovery plan": Will it work -- restoring economic growth and adding jobs?

From what I have seen so far, I do not think so. I think the current administration is operating on a set of old ideas that are going to fail on a massive scale, in part because this massive new government spending will not be targeted, as promised to the American people, on the current economic crisis.

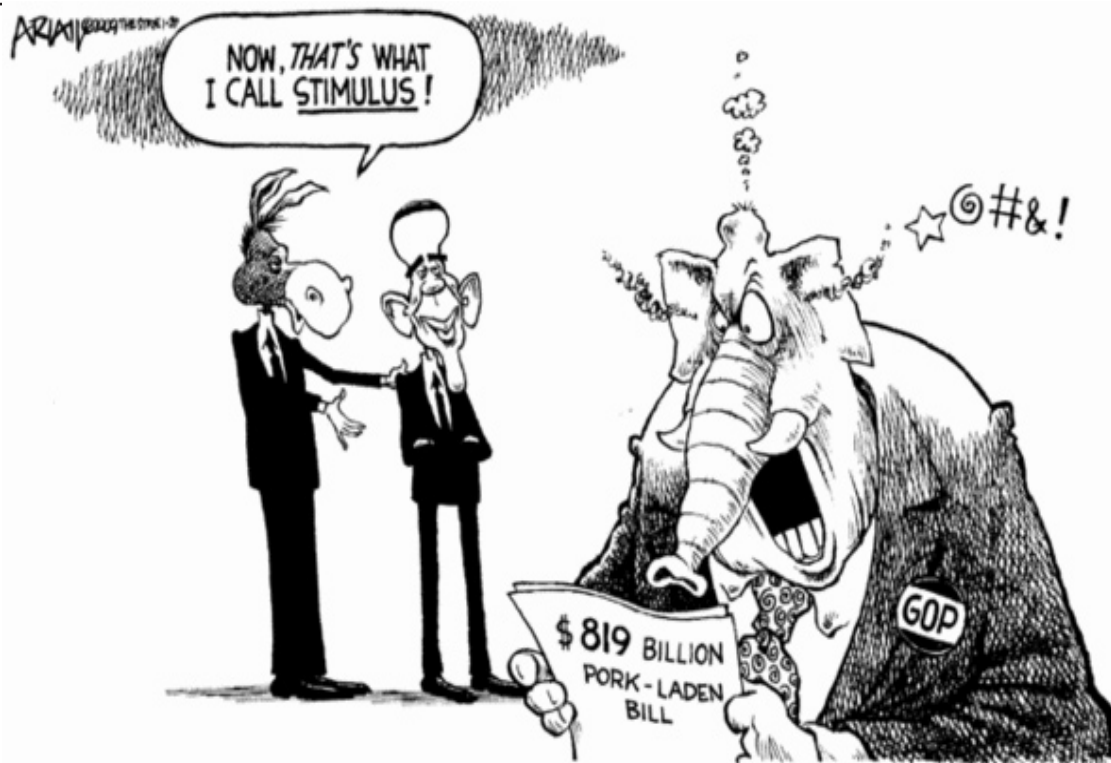
Instead, huge sums will be used to pay back interest groups that helped elect congressmen and senators and, yes, the White House. This is not a stimulus package. It is a wish list for the hard-left special interests.

So Barney Frank's banker friends get a little help from Washington. Planned Parenthood, which donates millions to political candidates, gets paid back with instant access to taxpayer financing abroad. So "community organizers" like ACORN become eligible for billions under a new "neighborhood stabilization program."

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., told FOX News on Tuesday that the money amounted to a "payoff" for groups' political activities in the last election. Huge sums are added to shore up careless state governments that have overspent during the good times, subsidizing fiscal irresponsibility on a massive scale.

There is a powerful case for using government to shore up the nation's banking system, which has a special role in the nation's economy -- unless private lending takes place, the economy will collapse. But by following Bush's lead in expanding the "recovery package" to include bailouts to auto executives, congressional Democrats sacrificed the idea of targeting money to banks.

Now powerful Democrats appear to have given up on the idea of targeting government money to the economic crisis at all. Don't believe me? Read the Congressional Budget Office's Jan. 26 report. □



Obama Releases Aid for Gaza

The Nation -- Recognizing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, President Obama has released \$21.3 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) Fund for use in the Palestinian region.

The money will go to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). According to the U.S. State Department, "These organizations are distributing emergency food assistance, providing medical assistance and temporary shelter, creating temporary employment, and restoring access to electricity and potable water to the people of Gaza."

Both the United Nations and the Red Cross have called for assistance in seeking to restore a measure of stability to Gaza, which suffered devastating blows to its civilian infrastructure during a sustained bombing campaign and invasion by Israeli Defense Forces.

Obama's move does not represent a fundamental shift in U.S. policy with regard to the Middle East.

But it does represent a quick and appropriate response to the letter sent this week to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by almost sixty members of Congress, urging the Obama Administration to give immediate attention to what one of the signers, Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison,

correctly described as "the dire situation that exists today in Gaza."

As such, this is another indication that the Obama administration is softening what was the hardline stance with regard to Gaza that had been established by the former Bush administration with regard to Gaza.

Here's the text of the letter from the members of Congress: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

U.S. Department of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520

January 27, 2009

Dear Secretary Clinton:

First, we would like to congratulate you on being sworn in as our nation's 6th Secretary of State. We are very hopeful that this new era in American foreign policy upon which we embark can advance the cause of peace in the Middle East and beyond.

As strong supporters of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, we are writing to express our deep concern for the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and to request immediate action by the United States to address this crisis. With the ceasefire now in effect, it is critical that the United States play a leading role in alleviating the suffering of civilians in Gaza and we respectfully urge your assistance in this task.

As you know, the situation on the ground is dire. The flow of humanitarian goods into the Gaza Strip is limited to food and medicine. Yet there exists a real need to allow for the

importation of construction materials and fuel, which require the opening of crossings into Gaza. For example, only the Karni Crossing has the capacity for transporting large cargo, such as cement, but it remains closed.

In addition, in order to rebuild civilian infrastructure in Gaza the international community is going to have to make significant monetary contributions. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates financial needs of nearly \$350 million just to rebuild their own infrastructure and continue providing essential services to the Palestinians in Gaza.

We also remain especially concerned about the desperate condition of medical services in Gaza. Although Israel has begun to allow limited medical supplies into Gaza, the need far outweighs the availability while hospitals remain understaffed and ill-supplied. One of the most crucial steps that needs to be taken is for Israel to allow critically ill patients to be transported out of Gaza and into Israel, the West Bank and Jordan, where they may receive necessary medical care. We therefore urge you to express this concern directly to Israeli government officials.

In addition to the several thousand individuals who were physically injured during the recent military operations, we can expect to see a dramatic increase in the number of individuals suffering from psychological trauma. □

Creating the Aruba Playground

Aruba Marriott Promotion to include Jolly Pirates



MALMOK - Bedecked in teak and mahogany hardwoods and dressed in billowing white sails, the entire team who operates the Jolly Pirates was overjoyed with the aspect of being featured in the promotion of the Aruba Marriott Playground.

Captured were both adventure and excitement aboard the Jolly Pirates Teak Schooner very early this sunny, Saturday morning by a team of professional photographers, flown in from Miami, by the Aruba Marriott Resort. Corey Weiner and Jeff Herron of Red Square Photography together with Stylist, Ana Huber rounded out the team chosen to seize the multi – generational fun aboard the Pirate Ship this weekend.

And just like the barnacles attached to the hull of ye Jolly Pirates, the teak schooner, played center stage for the well practiced photographers who were joined by countless, colorful, young models. Clambering aboard the teak decks, the booty they sought to capture was fine footage of the fun aboard the Jolly Pirates which will be included in their sensational promotion which showcases the many amenities' that will delight you at the Aruba Marriott Resort Playground.

The 85ft Jolly Pirate, Teak Schooner, a top choice for Aruba Marriott guests seeking a truly extraordinary sailing trip. For more information please call the Jolly Pirates at 586 – 8107 and after hours at 592 – 7858. Tickets can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Ticket Outlet located at MooMba Beach just between the Holiday Inn and the Marriott Resorts. □

"Images by Corey Weiner redsquarephoto.com"

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2 ⁹⁹	Planters Cheezmania Cheez Curls, 5.5 Oz			7 ⁰⁹	29 ⁹⁹
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Word on the street is that once you eat at **Fishes and More**, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant

is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dining room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical



breeze and daily live music.

Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day.

The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice.

Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. **Fishes and More** is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples

and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp.

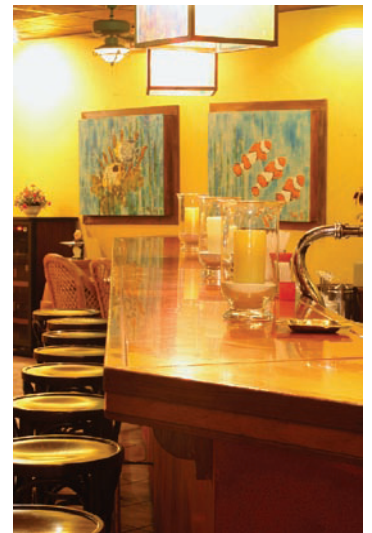
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caria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

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umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted

bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar.

Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly

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Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) and his teammate Ryan Clark celebrate Harrison's 100-yard touchdown interception against the Arizona Cardinals during the second quarter of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

See more on Page 17

Republican leaders doubt stimulus bill will pass Senate

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday the massive stimulus bill backed by President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats could go down to defeat if it's not stripped of unnecessary spending and focused more on housing issues and tax cuts.

The Senate version of the bill, which topped out at nearly \$900 billion, is headed to the floor for debate. The House bill totaled about \$819 billion and earned no Republican votes, even though it easily passed the Democratic-controlled House. At some point lawmakers will need to compromise on the competing versions.

McConnell and other Republicans suggested that the bill needed an overhaul because it doesn't pump enough into the private sector through tax cuts and allows Democrats to go on a spending spree unlikely to jolt



In this photo provided by CBS, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., appears on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

the economy. The Republican leader also complained that Democrats had not been as bipartisan in writing the bill as Obama had said he wanted. "I think it may be time ... for the president to kind of get a hold of these Democrats in the Senate and the House, who have rather significant majorities, and shake them a little bit and say, 'Look, let's do this the right way,'" McConnell

said. "I can't believe that the president isn't embarrassed about the products that have been produced so far."

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said he was seeing an erosion of support for the bill and suggested that lawmakers should consider beginning anew.

Continued on Next Page

AP Investigation: Banks sought foreign workers



David Huber, a Chicago networking engineer, is seen in Chicago, Jan. 29, 2009. Huber, a Chicago networking engineer, says he is still trying to recover from stretches of unemployment that reduced him to a Thanksgiving dinner of an apple and baked beans in 2004, despite his experience as a lead network engineer on a NASA Space Shuttle project. "American citizenship is being undermined working in our own country. Labor racketeering is taking place but it's all perfectly legal because of the H-1B visa," he said.

Associated Press

By FRANK BASS and RITA BEAMISH

Associated Press Writers

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) - Major U.S. banks sought government permission to bring thousands of foreign workers into the country for high-paying jobs even as the system was melting down last year and Americans were getting laid off, according to an Associated Press review of visa applications.

Continued on Page B4



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, right, speaks as Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, center, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, foreground left, look on as they attend the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009. The Israeli military says Gaza militants launched rockets into southern Israel Sunday morning. There were no reports of damage or casualties in the Sunday morning attack. The rocket demonstrated the fragility of a cease-fire that ended Israel's devastating Gaza offensive on Jan. 18.

Associated Press

Israel threatens retaliation for Gaza rocket fire

By MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli's prime minister threatened "harsh and disproportionate" retaliation after Gaza militants fired at least

10 rockets and mortar shells into southern Israel on Sunday, wounding three and raising the risk of fresh violence days ahead of elections.

Continued on Page B6

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STIMULUS BILL

Continued from Page B1

“When I say start from scratch, what I mean is that the basic approach of this bill, we believe, is wrong,” Kyl said.

While Democrats defended the bill, they said they were open to considering changes by Republicans. But they also said the unrelentingly bleak

economic news demanded action.

“We cannot delay this,” said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate Democrats’ No. 2 leader.

“We can’t engage in the old political rhetoric of saying, ‘Well, maybe it could be a little bit better here and a little bit better there.’ We’ve got to

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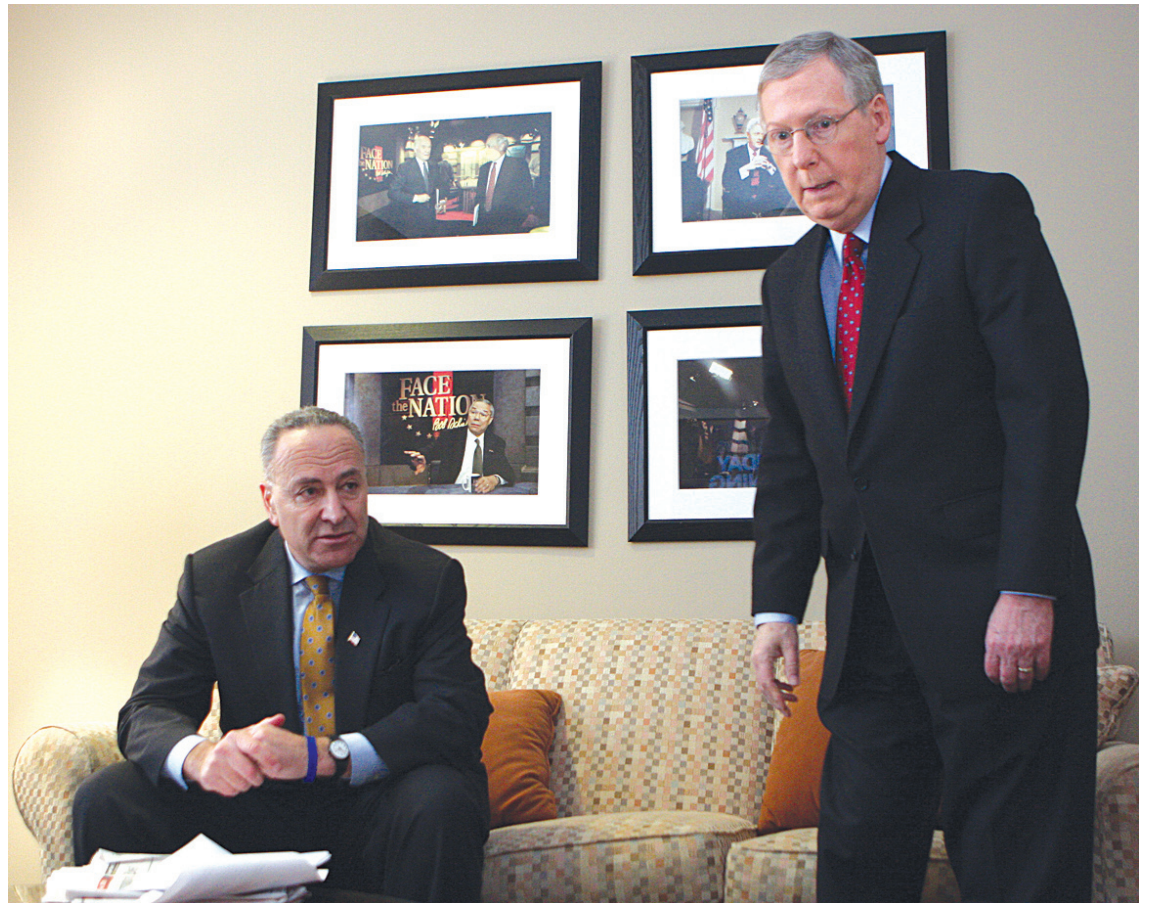
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In this photo provided by CBS, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., are seen in the Green Room before appearing on CBS’s “Face the Nation” in Washington, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

pull together.” Sen. Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York, agreed that more could be done in the area of housing, though he said tapping money in the separate financial bailout fund would be a more likely way to pay for mortgage relief. Under Obama’s plan, strained state budgets would receive a cash infusion, projects for roads and other infrastructure would be funded, and “green jobs” in the energy sector would be created. In its centerpiece tax cut, single workers would gain \$500 and couples \$1,000, even if they don’t earn enough to owe federal income taxes. Among the major changes Kyl said would be needed to gain Republican support in the Senate was the tax rebate for

individuals and couples, which he criticized as going to too many people who didn’t pay the tax to start with. He also criticized the bill for seeking to create nearly three dozen government programs and giving states far more money than they need. Durbin argued that \$1 out of every \$3 in the bill goes to tax cuts and defended it as aimed at helping working families. While he contended that Democrats were “very open” to Republican proposals, he cited only what he said were calls for more money in job-creating public works projects, typically a Democratic priority. Sen. Jim DeMint, a Republican from South Carolina, characterized the proposal as “a spending plan. It’s not a

Associated Press stimulus plan. It’s temporary, and it’s wasteful.”

Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said the bill was designed to help people who have been damaged in the economic meltdown as well as stimulate the economy.

“I never saw a tax cut fix a bridge. I never saw a tax cut give us more public transportation. The fact is, we need a mix,” Frank said.

Durbin and Kyl appeared on “Fox News Sunday,” DeMint and Frank were on ABC’s “This Week,” and McConnell and Schumer were on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” □

Investigators comb tour bus crash site for clues

By FELICIA FONSECA and AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writers

DOLAN SPRINGS, Arizona (AP) - Federal investigators on Sunday closely examined a stretch of rural Arizona highway near Hoover Dam looking for clues to the cause of a tour bus crash that killed seven Chinese tourists.

The six investigative team members would be measuring and photographing the site, evaluating the condition of the highway, and looking for skid marks and other clues, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Peter Knudson said.

"These markings can be very important in telling the story of what happened," Knudson said.

The bus crashed Friday on a straight stretch of U.S. 93, about 70 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

The tourists had left Las Vegas early Friday on a trip to the Grand Canyon, and were returning when the bus veered right and then left across the median, rolling at least once before resting across the southbound lanes of the highway.

Along with the seven people killed, 10 others were injured.

After inspecting the crash site, the investigators planned to head south to Kingman to evaluate the bus. That will include checking whether the wheels and brakes were in good working order and whether any mechanical malfunctions may have caused the accident, Knudson said.

He said the investigators also plan to interview the 48-year-old bus driver, who was in fair condition at a Las Vegas hospital, and the surviving passengers.

"The more people we talk with, the more information we'll be able to get," he said.

The investigation will take 12 to 18 months to complete, with the bulk of the work being conducted at the NTSB's headquarters in Washington, Knudson said.

Representatives of the Arizona Department of Public Safety said they likely will have some preliminary results this week.

"Was it mechanical failure? Was it driver error?" DPS spokesman Lt. James Warriner said. "All that will come with looking at the vehicle and conducting interviews."

Warriner said of the weather at the time of the wreck that it was a "nice, clear day."

The DPS said the bus belonged to D.W. Tours of San Gabriel, California, which did not respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Five people remained hospitalized Sunday at University Medical Center in Las Vegas. Two were in critical condition.

Hospital spokesman Rick Plummer said the victims' injuries ranged from spinal and head injuries to bone fractures. "It ran the whole gamut of injuries," he said. □

Geologist: No big energy bursts at Alaska volcano

By RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

- Groans and steam emanated from Mount Redoubt yet another day, but the volcano showed no dramatic burst of energy, geologists noted Sunday.

"It looks like a volcano that wants to erupt, and our general impression is that it's more likely to erupt than not," said Tina Neal with the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

As a precaution, Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, about 100 miles northeast of Redoubt, was moving five C-17 cargo planes to McChord Air Force Base in Washington.

"We're just trying to be proactive and protect our assets," said 1st Lt. Erin Slaughter.

"Our aircraft support other missions, such as delivering supplies to Iraq and Afghanistan, and this relocation will allow them to still do all those missions even if the volcano does erupt."

On Saturday, geologists observed a quickly growing area of vigorous steaming at the 7,100-foot (2,164-meter) level on the north side of the mountain. Volcanic gas also was detected.

A hole in a glacier clinging to the north side of the volcano had doubled in size since Friday, spanning the length of two football fields.

The area is just below a dome that formed the last time



This image provided by the Alaska Volcano Observatory/U.S. Geological Survey shows the Redoubt Volcano, Friday, Jan. 30, 2009 near Anchorage, Alaska. Scientists with the Alaska Volcano Observatory on Friday flew close to Drift Glacier and saw vigorous steaming emitted from a football-size area on the north side of the mountain. By Saturday, they had confirmed the area was a fumarole, an opening in the earth that emits gases and steam, and that it had doubled overnight.

Associated Press

Redoubt blew in 1990.

The signs of heat add to concerns that an eruption is near, which could send an ash cloud about 100 miles northeast toward Anchorage, the state's largest city, or onto communities on the Kenai Peninsula, which is even closer to the mountain on the west side of Cook Inlet.

An eruption in December 1989 sent an ash cloud 150 miles that flamed out the jet engines of a KLM flight carrying 231 passengers on its way to Anchorage. Pilots were able to restart the engines and land safely. The observatory last week detected a steep increase in earthquake activity below

the volcano, upgrading its alert level to orange, the stage before full eruption. Volcanologist Dave Schneider said seismic activity Friday was the most pronounced. Since then, activity has been less intense and more intermittent, but still far above normal for Redoubt. "Volcanoes are kind of like kids. Each has their own personality, their own levels of seismicity," Schneider said. "Redoubt is pretty much above any volcano's seismicity. It's a very restless volcano at present."

Alaska's volcanoes typically erupt with blasts that can shoot ash 50,000 feet high. □

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In this Sept. 26, 2007, file photo Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, talks to reporters in his Capitol Hill office in Washington. U.S. banks that are collecting billions of dollars in taxpayer loans to stay afloat sought government permission to import thousands of foreign workers for high-paying jobs in the United States, an Associated Press investigation has found. The job losses anger lawmakers like Sen. Charles Grassley, who is pushing legislation to make employers recruit American workers first, along with other reforms to the visa program.

FOREIGN BANK

Continued from Page B1

The dozen banks now receiving the biggest rescue packages, totaling more than \$150 billion, requested visas for more than 21,800 foreign workers over the past six years for positions that included senior vice presidents, corporate lawyers, junior investment analysts and human resources specialists. The average annual salary for those jobs was \$90,721, nearly twice the median income for all American households.

As the economic collapse

worsened last year - with huge numbers of bank employees laid off - the numbers of visas sought by the dozen banks in AP's analysis increased by nearly one-third, from 3,258 in the 2007 budget year to 4,163 in fiscal 2008.

The AP reviewed visa applications the banks filed with the Labor Department under the H-1B visa program, which allows temporary employment of foreign workers in specialized-skill and advanced-degree positions. Such visas are most often associated with high-

tech workers.

It is unclear how many foreign workers the banks actually hired; the government does not release those details. The actual number is likely a fraction of the 21,800 foreign workers the banks sought to hire because the government only grants 85,000 such visas each year among all U.S. employers.

During the last three months of 2008, the largest banks that received taxpayer loans announced more than 100,000 layoffs. The number of foreign workers included among those laid off is unknown.

Foreigners are attractive hires because companies have found ways to pay them less than American workers.

Companies are required to pay foreign workers a prevailing wage based on the job's description. But they can use the lower end of government wage scales even for highly skilled workers; hire younger foreigners with lower salary demands; and hire foreigners with higher levels of education or advanced degrees for jobs for which similarly educated American workers would be considered overqualified.

"The system provides you perfectly legal mechanisms to underpay the workers," said John Miano of Summit, New Jersey, a lawyer who has analyzed the wage data and started the Programmers Guild, an advocacy group that opposes the H-1B system.

David Huber of Chicago is a computer networking engineer who has testified to Congress about losing out on a 2002

job with the former Bank One Corp. He learned later the bank applied to hire dozens of foreign visa holders for work he said he was qualified to do.

"American citizenship is being undermined working in our own country," Huber said in an AP interview.

Beyond seeking approval for visas from the government, banks that accepted federal bailout money also enlisted uncounted foreign workers, often in technology jobs, through intermediary companies known as "body shops." Such businesses are the top recipients of the H-1B visas.

The use of visa workers by ailing banks angers Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

"In this time of very, very high unemployment ... and considering the help these banks are getting from the taxpayers, they're playing the American taxpayer for a sucker," Grassley said in a telephone interview with AP. Grassley, with Sen. Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, is pushing for legislation to make employers recruit American workers first, along with other changes to the visa program.

Banks turned to foreign workers before the current economic crisis, said Diane Casey-Landry, chief operating officer for the American Bankers Association. The group said a year ago that demand exceeded the pool of qualified workers in areas

like sales, lending and bank administration. Now with massive layoffs, the situation is different, Casey-Landry said.

The issue takes on a higher profile as the government injects billions of dollars into the economy and President Barack Obama pushes for massive government spending to create jobs nationwide, on top of the \$700 billion already approved for the ailing banks. "You're using taxpayer dollars and there's an expectation that there are benefits to the U.S.," said Ron Hira, a national expert on foreign employment and assistant public policy professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology. "What you're really doing is leaking away those jobs and benefits that should accrue to the taxpayers."

But New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg believes more access to "worldwide talent pools" will better position U.S. financial companies against global competitors, spokesman Andrew Brent said. The U.S. Customs and Immigration Service declined to disclose details on foreign workers hired at the banks that have received federal bailouts. The AP has requested the information under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Nearly all the banks the AP contacted also declined to comment on their foreign hiring practices. Arlene C. Roberts, spokeswoman for State Street Corp. of Boston, which has received \$2 billion in bailout money, said the company has reduced H-1B hiring in recent years, and just hires for specialized positions.

Jennifer Scott of Yreka, California, a retired technical systems manager at Bank of America in Concord, California, said in 2004 she oversaw foreign employees from a contractor firm that also sent overnight work to employees in India.


"It had nothing to do with a shortage, but they didn't want to pay the U.S. rate," she said, adding that the quality of the work was weak. "It's all about numbers crunching."

Frank Bass reported from East Dover, Vermont. □

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Thaw comes slowly to storm-ravaged Kentucky

By ROGER ALFORD

Associated Press Writer

CANEYVILLE, Ky. —

Thousands of National Guard troops swinging chainsaws cut their way into remote communities Sunday to reach residents stranded by a deadly ice storm, freeing some to get out of their driveways for the first time in nearly a week.

The soldiers went door-to-door handing out chili and beef stew rations to people cooped up in their powerless homes as authorities ratcheted up the relief effort for what Gov. Steve Beshear called the biggest natural disaster ever to hit the state.

"It's going to be a long haul for us," Gov. Steve Beshear said Sunday as he toured hard-hit areas in and around Elizabethtown. "We've thrown everything we have at it. We're going to continue to do that until everyone is back in their homes and back on their feet." The sight of Humvees rolling up one street in rural Grayson County, about 90 miles southwest of Louisville, sent children bouncing off the walls inside the generator-powered house where Bryan Bowling and 18 other people have been hunkering down by a fireplace.

"The kids were looking out the windows and yelling, 'Yay! We're saved!'" said Bowling, 30, who has a 7-year-old and a 4-year-old.

"It's just good to know that people care."

Kentucky was hit hardest by the ice storm that paralyzed wide areas from the Ozarks through Appalachia early last week. Officials blamed or suspected the storm in at least 42 deaths nationwide, most from hypothermia, traffic accidents or carbon monoxide poisoning from improperly installed generators or charcoal grills used indoors.

At its height, the storm knocked out power to 1.3 million customers from the Southern Plains to the East Coast, more than 700,000 of them in Kentucky, a state record. By Sunday, the figure had dropped to nearly half that across Kentucky, with scattered



Spc. Michael Hagan with the Kentucky National Guard walks past storm damage as he goes door-to-door checking on residents Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Clinton, Ky. National Guard troops made their way into isolated Kentucky communities like Clinton Sunday to check on residents walloped by a winter storm that Gov. Steve Beshear called the biggest natural disaster ever to hit the state.

Associated Press

outages in other states.

By Sunday night, 93 of Kentucky's 120 counties along with 71 cities had declared states of emergencies, according to Monica French, a spokeswoman for the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. She said officials attributed 16 deaths in Kentucky to the storm.

The 4,600 soldiers Beshear ordered on duty, including his entire Army National Guard, swept through the state distributing food and water, removing fallen trees, providing security and checking houses in hard-to-reach areas. They brought food to Henry Mudd, among others, who said he has had nine family members staying in his powerless apartment, usually home to just three.

"It ain't been easy," said Mudd, a saw mill operator.

"The biggest thing we need is electricity," Mudd said Sunday, one day after he finally cut through the fallen trees and branches that blocked his road and made it to the store, only to discover there wasn't a battery to be found. "But we're managing with wood heat. We're staying warm."

The troops, utility workers and good-natured civilians took advantage of temperatures near 50 across much of the region to make headway on repairs. And while authorities said some people might not get electricity for weeks, residents showed

plenty of resilience.

In the town of Clinton, tucked in the tip of western Kentucky, Spc. Michael Hagan had yet to find a person in need of help after four hours of searching, but he said he'd keep knocking on doors.

"I told my sergeant if I have to walk one more hill, my feet are going to fall off," said the 23-year-old guardsman, who returned from 18 months in Iraq in December. "But it's good to be sure people are all right."

One of those who answered the door was Dorothy Potter, 80, who moved to Clinton from Biloxi, Miss., last spring. There, she said she lost her power for 30 days after Hurricane Katrina. It was more a change of scenery than living in a hurricane zone that caused her to leave, she said.

"But still, I move here, and I go through this," she said.

Across Kentucky, churches canceled services or whittled schedules to just one service for the day. At New Horizon Baptist Church in Glendale, volunteers from New Haven Baptist Church in Albany, La., passed out free kerosene, batteries, bottled water and other assorted goods to local residents, returning a favor from 2005. "Our church sent a truckload down when Katrina hit," said Dan Brian, New Horizon's associate pastor, "and they heard we had trouble and here they came." □

Texas prisoners riot for second time in 2 months

PECOS, Texas (AP) - Law enforcement authorities in West Texas say they are trying to restore order at a privately run federal prison where a riot broke out, the second disturbance in as many months. Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said the riot at the Reeves County Detention Center in Pecos was continuing Sunday, a day after it started.

It wasn't immediately clear how many inmates were involved. The facility about 430 miles (692 kilometers) west of Dallas holds more than 2,400 inmates.

A riot erupted there in December over requests for better medical treatment. Minor injuries were reported in that disturbance.

The GEO Group, which runs the lockup, didn't respond to calls Sunday. Prison officials couldn't be reached for comment. □

Novice survives after sky-dive strapped to a dead man

CHESTER, South Carolina (AP) - Authorities say a skydive instructor who was sharing a parachute with a first-time jumper apparently died of a heart attack in the air.

Officials say the instructor was identified as George C. "Chip" Steele of Sumter, South Carolina. The first-time jumper was able to parachute to the ground safely Saturday in Chester County. He tried to revive the 49-year-old instructor after they had landed, but the coroner's office says it was too late. They were skydiving in a tandem jump, where instructors are strapped to the backs of their students. The first-time jumper was described as an active member of the military in his 30s, but his name was not immediately released. Steele worked for Skydive Carolina and had made thousands of jumps over a lengthy career. □

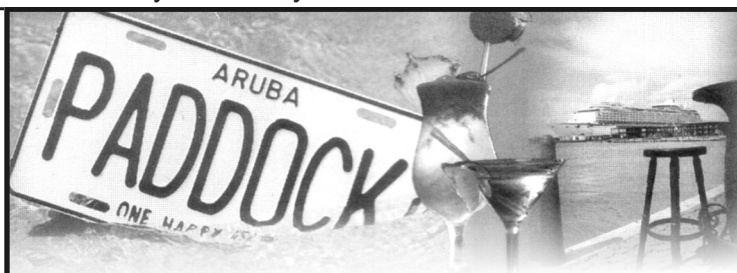
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A Palestinian boy leads his donkey as they pass destroyed buildings in the area of east Jebaliya, northern Gaza Strip, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009. Gaza militants launched two rockets and several mortar shell into southern Israel early Sunday, wounding three and drawing a threat of "disproportionate" retaliation from Israel's prime minister and further straining a cease-fire that ended Israel's Gaza offensive. The flare-up in violence came just over a week before Israel's parliamentary vote. Continued fighting could influence the outcome by raising questions about the effectiveness of Israel's actions in Gaza.

Associated Press

ISRAEL

Continued from Page B1

All three candidates to replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in the Feb. 10 vote leveled their own threats against Gaza's Hamas rulers.

Since an unwritten truce ended Israel's offensive in Gaza two weeks ago, rocket and mortar fire from the Palestinian territory has increased steadily. Israeli retaliation, including brief ground incursions and bombing runs aimed at rocket launchers and smuggling tunnels, is intensifying.

A late afternoon mortar barrage on the village of Nahal Oz, next to the Gaza border fence, wounded two soldiers and a civilian, the military and rescue services said. Earlier, a rocket landed near a kindergarten near Gaza, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Even before the mortars hit Nahal Oz, Olmert told his Cabinet that "if there is shooting at residents of the south, there will be an Israeli response that will be harsh and disproportionate by its nature."

Hamas spokesman Taher Nunu said Olmert's threat was an attempt by Israel to "find false pretexts to increase its aggression against the people" of Gaza.

Hamas has not taken responsibility for the new attacks, which have been claimed by smaller militant groups. But Israel says it holds Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since seizing power in June 2007, responsible for all attacks coming from there.

Israeli defense officials said they had not yet formulated a response to the strikes, but said a return to the offensive - in which Israeli tanks and infantry units penetrated deep into Gaza - was unlikely. Instead, they said Israel would consider airstrikes, including attempts to kill Hamas leaders. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing classified security matters.

Palestinians said residents near the Egypt-Gaza

border received calls after nightfall Sunday from the Israeli military advising them to leave ahead of Israeli attacks on smuggling tunnels. The military had no immediate comment.

The three-week Israeli offensive left nearly 1,300 Palestinians dead, more than half of them civilians, according to Gaza officials. Thirteen Israelis were killed, including three civilians.

Olmert is in the last weeks of his term. He resigned in September over a string of corruption investigations. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, his Kadima Party's chosen successor, failed to put together an alternative government, forcing the upcoming election.

Two candidates for premier - Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Livni - are in the government, competing for credit for last month's bruising Gaza offensive. The third, front-runner Benjamin Netanyahu of the hawkish Likud Party, is sniping from the side.

Livni told the Cabinet meeting that Israel hammered Gaza for three weeks to persuade Palestinian militants to stop their daily rocket barrages. "At a certain point we stopped to see if they had got the very clear message that Israel will not accept fire at its civilians," she said, according to participants who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

With the resumption of the rocket attacks, she said, "the response must be harsh and immediate." Barak told the Cabinet that Israel would respond, but called for an end to "running off at the mouth" about the options, "even in an election season," according to a statement from his office.

Netanyahu told reporters on Sunday that Israel's response must be tough, and then Israel must work for "removal of the Hamas regime in Gaza, and removal of the threat of rockets (falling) on the suburbs of Tel Aviv."

Pre-election polls show Netanyahu with a lead over Livni, and Barak trailing badly. □

Rebels unilaterally free four Colombian hostages

By FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA (AP) - Colombia's badly battered FARC rebels delivered three police officers and a soldier to the International Red Cross on Sunday in a mission marred by accusations of military interference.

A Brazilian military helicopter, emblazoned with the Red Cross insignia, retrieved the four hostages from a spot in the southeastern jungles.

A reporter accompanying the mission said it was hounded by military overflights.

"The operation was basically on the verge of being aborted," Luis Enrique Botero told the Venezuelan television network Telesur by satellite phone just before the handover. He said he had recordings to prove it.

Colombia's peace commissioner, Luis Carlos Restrepo, called the allegations "baseless." He said the government honored an agreement with the Red Cross for no military flights beneath 20,000 feet during the liberation.

The freed hostages were en route Sunday afternoon to the provincial capital of Villavicencio in Colombia's eastern lowlands, where relatives had spent an anxious day awaiting them, said Red Cross spokesman Yves Heller.

Captured by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in 2007, they are among six hostages the FARC pledged to free this week. The other two, the only Colombian politicians believed still in rebel hands, have been held far longer.

Analysts consider this week's unconditional releases - the guerrillas' first in nearly a year - a goodwill gesture. However, chances for a peace dialogue with Colombia's government remain far off. The alleged military interference Sunday was only apt to complicate matters.

Also speaking with Telesur from the handover site, a guerrilla commander who identified himself as Jairo Martinez accused Colombia's military of killing a rebel in

his unit in combat on Sunday morning.

The government peace commissioner, Restrepo, did not directly deny the allegation, but said, "We are accustomed to the lies of the FARC."

The Western Hemisphere's last rebel army announced this week's releases on Dec. 21 in response to a plea from Colombian intellectuals.

President Alvaro Uribe, however, has resisted FARC attempts to negotiate a prisoner swap, and last month accused the rebels of "deceiving the country with talk of peace."

He has frequently been at odds with the opposition lawmaker who helped engineer this week's releases, Sen. Piedad Cordoba. She is a close ally of Venezuela's leftist president, Hugo Chavez.

Colombia's U.S.-backed military has seriously weakened the rebels in the past two years, killing top commanders, compelling hundreds of desertions with hefty rewards and forcing

the rebels into virtual radio silence with sophisticated surveillance.

FARC commander Alfonso Cano, meanwhile, has refused to renounce kidnapping, a key rebel political and fundraising tool. The guerrillas' main revenue source is the cocaine trade.

It is not known how many hostages are held by the FARC, which has sought the overthrow of successive Colombian governments for 45 years, though the government says they currently include just one foreigner, a Swede identified as Roland Larsson kidnapped in May 2007.

The man's son, Tommy, told The Associated Press in Sweden that he recently received a proof-of-life video but no ransom demand.

"A doctor saw the video and it appears that he had suffered from a stroke. His right arm, leg and parts of his face are paralyzed," Larsson said. "Daddy is old and sick. He has lost weight. He looks weak."

At least 22 Colombian soldiers



Colombia's peace commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo talks to the media during a press conference in Villavicencio, Colombia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009. A reporter accompanying a humanitarian mission on Sunday to release four hostages held by Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, rebels accused the military of interfering with and delaying the handover.

and police continue to be held by the FARC as bargaining chips. They include a police general seized more than a decade ago and Cpl. Pablo Moncayo, 28, who was captured in December 1997 during a raid on a remote mountain outpost.

Moncayo's anguished father, Gustavo, told the AP on Sunday

that he didn't understand why the FARC was releasing security-force members held for a comparatively short time.

"I don't know. It's something they're doing that's beyond logic and reason," he said.

The releases were greeted with hope, but also considerable skepticism. □

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More than 100 dead in Kenya gasoline blaze

By **ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY**


Associated Press Writer
MOLO, Kenya (AP) - The explosion of an overturned tanker could be felt for miles, and the moments that followed haunted survivors: People ablaze, their clothes burned off, running to the bush in a futile effort to escape the pain and begging for help. More than 100 people were killed, and another 200 injured in the inferno overwhelmed hospitals Sunday, where victims lined the floors, hooked to drips and moaning in pain. Authorities expected the death toll to rise and were searching the scorched woods for corpses.

Hundreds of impoverished people had flocked to the overturned tanker Saturday to siphon fuel when it exploded, likely sparked by a cigarette. "Everybody was screaming and most of them were running with fire on their bodies, they were just running into the bush," said Charles Kamau, 22, who was driving through Molo on Saturday night when he saw the road blocked by hundreds of people with gerry cans, plastic bottles and buckets - anything to siphon some free fuel. The explosion was one of this East African nation's deadliest accidents, and highlighted the desperation of people living in the poorest continent in the



A burnt petrol tanker lies on its side on Molo Road in Molo, several hours outside Nairobi, Kenya, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009. The tanker exploded Saturday as hundreds of people were trying to scoop up free fuel, killing at least 89 people and wounding 200, officials said Sunday.

Associated Press



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PG	INKHEART	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:50	7:40 3:00	9:50 late show: 12:00
PG-13	YES MEN	daily: 5:40 matinee: 1:05	7:50 3:25	10:05 late show: 12:20
R	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:00	7:20 2:30	9:55 late show: 12:15
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world. "Poverty is pushing our people into doing desperate things just to get through one more day," Prime Minister Raila Odinga said at a hospital in Nakuru, near Molo. Joseph Rotich, 35, lives in Molo and ran to the scene when he heard that a tanker was spilling fuel. He was haunted by the severely wounded victims, their clothes burned off, begging for help in the forest. "They were lying there, saying, 'Give me aid, please call someone,'" he said. "I am so sad, so sad. When they heard this lorry had fuel, they came to get the fuel because it was free." The government sent extra body bags and medical supplies to the area

by helicopter, along with more doctors for the overwhelmed hospitals, where some victims were lying on floors. One child, who appeared to be around 10, was sitting dazed in a wheelchair with burns covering his face and body. The Kenya Red Cross said the death toll was 113 but was expected to rise. "Most of the families will have a hard time because these bodies are charred beyond recognition," said Patrick Nyongesa, the regional manager for the Kenya Red Cross. The scene was so gruesome, he said, that Red Cross workers were being offered counseling. Burnt-out cars and charred clothing littered the road

where the shell of the tanker stood, smoldering. Odinga said a cigarette might have caused the explosion, but police said the cause remained under investigation. Kamau, who works at an orphanage near Molo, was unhurt but a 10-year-old child who was in the car with him suffered burns on his back, and another adult in his car was missing. "I just grabbed the boy and ran," Kamau said. He was a Red Cross tent in Molo, about 105 miles northwest of the capital, Nairobi, to report his colleague missing. Hundreds were gathering there for any news of missing loved ones. Similar blasts are common in Nigeria, where people tap gas pipelines to pilfer fuel for cooking or resale on the black market. In 2006, a gasoline blast killed 200 people in Nigeria. The Kenyan government has been criticized for poor safety regulations recently. Nearly 30 people died Wednesday when a massive fire swept through a supermarket in downtown Nairobi. Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka said the country was enduring a time of tragedy. "Everybody is in shock, with the fire coming as it does just days after the other blast," he said as he toured the scene in Molo. □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!



A police officer stands guard while another searches a voter entering a polling center during the country's provincial elections in Mosul, Iraq, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009. Iraq's third largest city is the major urban battlefield left in the fight between Sunni insurgents and U.S. troops in Iraq, and a Sunni party led by former Saddam Hussein loyalists with strong anti-Kurdish views appears the likely winner in provincial balloting. If the party emerges on top, that could heighten ethnic tensions in an area the Americans see as al-Qaida's last urban stronghold.

Associated Press

Iraqi election hints of troubles for Shiite giant

By BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) - They once seemed to hold all the sway in Iraq: political rule of the crucial Shiite heartland, the backing of influential clerics and a foot in the government with ambitions to take full control.

But the days of wide-open horizons could be soon ending for Iraq's biggest Shiite political machine - the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council - and replaced by important shifts in Iraq's political momentum that could be welcomed in Washington and scorned in Tehran.

Setbacks for the Supreme Council would open space for wider political realignments by Iraq's majority Shiites that could boost the U.S.-backed prime minister and leave Iran without a powerful channel for influence in Iraq.

The signs began to take shape Sunday with hints of the voter mood from provincial elections.

The broad message _ built on Iraqi media projections and postelection interviews _ was that the eventual results would punish religious-leaning factions blamed for stoking sectarian violence and reward secular parties seen capable of holding Iraq's relative calm.

The outcome of the provincial races will not directly affect Iraq's national policies or its balance between Washington's global power and Iran's regional muscle. But Shiite political trends are critically important in Iraq, where majority Shiites now hold sway after the fall of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime.

"There is a backlash from Iraqis against sectarian and religious politics," said Mustafa al-Ani, an Iraqi political analyst based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Supreme Council could take a direct hit .

Although official results from Saturday's voting are likely still days away, the early outlines are humbling for a group that had been considered a linchpin in Iraqi politics as a junior partner in the government and its near seamless political control in the Shiite south.

Now, some forecasts point to widespread losses across the main Shiite provinces. The blows could possibly include embarrassing stumbles in the key city of Basra and the spiritual center of Najaf _ hailed as the future capital in the Supreme Council's dreams for an autonomous Shiite enclave.

In their place, the big election winners appear to be allies of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to projections and interviews with political figures who spoke on condition of anonymity because official results are not posted. □

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Sri Lankan Army soldiers are seen outside a damaged church in the newly recaptured Tamil rebel held town of Mullaitivu, about 143 miles northeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009. A government health official said Wednesday Jan. 28, 2009, that witnesses reported 250 to 300 civilians were killed in fighting over the past week in northern Sri Lanka and said hospital records showed that more than 1,100 were wounded. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said no civilians had been killed in the fighting, though some forced to build fortifications by the rebels - known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - might have been wounded in the crossfire.

Associated Press

By RAVI NESSMAN

Associated Press Writer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - A hospital in Sri Lanka's chaotic war zone was hit twice by artillery attacks within hours Sunday, killing at least six civilians and wounding many others, the region's top health official and the Red Cross said.

Dr. Thurairajah Varatharajah said the shells in the later attack appeared to have been fired by the Sri Lankan army and killed five. He said they also caused extensive damage to the crowded Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital, one of the last functioning health institutions inside rebel-held territory.

With beds full, many patients sleep in the corridor.

The Red Cross said the earlier artillery attack killed two people. It did not say which side fired those shells. Varatharajah said only one person was killed.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara did not answer calls seeking comment. The military has repeatedly denied killing civilians in their offensive to wipe out the Tamil Tiger rebels and end the island nation's 25-year-old civil war with the ethnic separatist group.

Independent reports from the war zone are not available because journalists are barred

Sri Lankan official says army shelled hospital

from the area.

The attack on the hospital came amid reports of growing casualties among ethnic Tamil civilians trapped with the rebels inside a tiny patch of jungle and small villages. The Red Cross estimates 250,000 are in the area, while the government says the number is smaller.

Varatharajah, the top health official in the northern Mullaitivu district, estimated last week that more than 300 civilians had been killed in the recent fighting. The government denied that. Varatharajah has not updated his estimate.

Speaking by telephone from the hospital in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Varatharajah said the facility was hit by five artillery shells after 10 p.m. Sunday. Most of the shells landed in the women's ward, he said.

"There are five dead and a lot of casualties," he said.

Hospital workers were having trouble counting the injured because many staff members were too scared to leave their fortified bunkers and the hospital was suffering power cuts, he said.

The Red Cross, which has offices in the hospital, said the earlier attack on the facility killed at least two people and injured at least five others.

"We're shocked that the

hospital was hit, and this for the second time in recent weeks," Paul Castella, head of the Colombo delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said in a statement. "Wounded and sick people, medical personnel and medical facilities are all protected by international humanitarian law. Under no circumstance may they be directly attacked."

Both the rebels and the army know the location of the hospital, Varatharajah said.

The attack took place on a day of heavy fighting in the area, he said.

"There's heavy shelling where there are civilians," Varatharajah said. "They (the shells) are coming from the army side."

Well over 100 injured people came to the hospital during the day, he said.

The Red Cross said more than 500 patients were in the hospital, and the wounded continued to arrive despite the afternoon attack on the facility.

The hospital is so crowded that many patients were forced to sleep on mattresses in the corridor, it said.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in the north and east after decades of marginalization by

governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the civil war.

On Sunday, the army said rescuing civilians from the war zone would be one of its top priorities.

The government has accused the rebels of holding the civilian population hostage for use as human shields. The rebels deny the allegation.


"Our offensive now has two objectives - continuing operations to crush the (rebels) and to get the civilians released," Nanayakkara said.

The government had given the insurgents Friday and Saturday to let noncombatants leave the area.


But only 236 civilians crossed the front lines into government-held areas during the two days, according to the military.

Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa warned Sunday that Western diplomats, foreign journalists and aid groups would be "chased" out of the country if they appear to favor the rebels.

The rebels, meanwhile, suffered further losses as troops captured two camps for the Black Tigers, the rebels' suicide squad, and recovered the bodies of 12 rebels apparently killed in the fighting, the military said. □



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Russian Orthodox Church enthrones new leader

By MANSUR MIROVALEV
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - A new patriarch took charge of the Russian Orthodox Church on Sunday, formally becoming the first leader of the world's largest Orthodox church to take office after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Patriarch Kirill, 62, has been a cautious advocate of change and a prominent figure in trying to reconcile with the Roman Catholic Church. He became the 16th person to bear the title in a solemn ceremony at Christ the Savior Cathedral. The original 19th-century church was dynamited under Stalin but rebuilt after the Soviet collapse. The ceremony was broadcast live on national television and attended by President Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and scores of other officials from Russia and ex-Soviet states.

Patriarch Alexy II died in early December after almost two decades at the helm of the church when millions of Russians returned to their historic faith. But polls show that only about 5 percent of Russians are observant believers, and only 30 percent of the population believe they should follow the moral teachings of the church.

Kirill, long Alexy's deputy, has been critical of tolerance of homosexuality, abortion, multiparty democracy and the division of secular and religious authority.

He adheres to nationalist ideas about Russia's role in the world and supports the idea that Russian civilization is fundamentally different and opposed to Western concepts. An unusually public and outspoken religious figure in the church known for its traditionalism, he has long pushed for introduction of

Orthodox religious classes in schools. He appears on television shows and frequently voices his opinion on secular matters, including Russia's current economic crisis.

On the day after his election, Kirill pledged to refrain from initiating "topdown reforms that hurt people," but cautiously promised changes, the Interfax news agency reported.

He is expected by some to seek a more muscular role for the church, which has served the state for much of its 1,000-year history.

Church and state are officially separate under the post-Soviet constitution, but ties have tightened again since Putin came to power in 2000.

Among the changes Kirill is likely to initiate is wider use of Russian language in services instead of the archaic Church Slavonic and permission



New Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Kirill, puts on his comcockle during the enthronement service in Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

Associated Press

for women to wear trousers inside churches. He will face opposition from a strong conservative movement within the church that sees him as too modern.

After his election, church leaders ruled out a meeting between pope and patriarch

- the unrealized dream of the late Pope John Paul II. The Russian church accuses the Vatican of trying to convert Russians to the Catholic faith. There have also been disputes over property and influence in Ukraine, where both churches have large flocks. □

North Korea warns of possible war with South Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea warned Sunday that South Korea's confrontational policies may trigger a war on the divided peninsula, a message coming two days after the communist country vowed to abandon all peace agreements with its southern neighbor.

Relations between the two Koreas have been strained since conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office nearly a year ago in Seoul, pledging to take a harder line on the North. Tension heightened Friday when the

North said it was ditching a nonaggression pact and all other peace accords with South Korea.

The tension may lead to "an unavoidable military conflict and a war," North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried Sunday by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

"The policy of confrontation" by the South Korean government is "the very source of military conflicts and war" between the Koreas, it said.

The North has accused Lee's government of preparing to

stage a war, which South Korea denies. Earlier this month, the North's military declared it adopted an "all-out confrontational posture" to defeat any southern aggression.

In its Friday statement, the North said it would no longer respect a disputed sea border with the South on the west of the peninsula, raising the prospect for a new armed clash in the area - already the scene of bloody naval skirmishes in 1999 and 2002. President Lee sought to downplay the statement and called it "not unusual." He indicated his government will



South Korean Special Army soldiers cross a river during their military winter exercise in Pyeongchang, east of Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Jan. 19, 2009. North Korea's main newspaper said Monday that the communist nation does not engage in "empty talk," heightening tensions surrounding its threat to take military action to counter what it calls South Korean plans to invade.

Associated Press

wait until the North is ready for talks in good faith. A South Korean Defense Ministry official said Sunday

that the country's navy remains on alert along the western sea border. □

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PALM BEACH - The famous Casa Tua restaurant in Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens now has a twin Casa Tua in Downtown Oranjestad upstairs in the Aventura Mall overlooking the Daniel Leo Plaza. This restaurant presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian and you are welcome tonight to delight in the savory hot and cold tapas.

Casa Tua boasts the unique opportunity to sample the "Pata Negra" which is "Jamon Iberico", considered the absolute

salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as "the" professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his sons Daved and Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of

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- Grilled Veal \$ 5
- Grilled Pork \$ 5
- Grilled Beef \$ 5
- Grilled Lamb \$ 5
- Grilled Turkey \$ 5
- Grilled Veal \$ 5

HOT TAPAS

- Shrimp Cocktail \$ 5
- Grilled Octopus \$ 5
- Grilled Squid \$ 5
- Grilled Calamari \$ 5
- Grilled Shrimp \$ 5
- Grilled Fish \$ 5
- Grilled Chicken \$ 5
- Grilled Pork \$ 5
- Grilled Beef \$ 5
- Grilled Lamb \$ 5
- Grilled Turkey \$ 5
- Grilled Veal \$ 5



their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar is well known for its fun and relaxed ambiance at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort. For years the beach bar has been the place for unforgettable fun parties which have turned out to be ever lasting memories for many Aruba visitors and local residents. And the fun filled events make Bugaloe even more special!

Live music
Three times a week Bugaloe is the stage for live concerts. On Tuesday from 5-8pm the band JOYRIDE will celebrate sunset with hot Latin tunes. Fridays is also a big hit as LOTUS will ease out the week from 5-8pm with the greatest ballads from the 80's and 90's. MARISELA



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"Taken" captures weekend box office lead



In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Liam Neeson is shown in a scene from, "Taken."

(AP Photo/20th Century Fox, Stephanie Branchu)

By GREG RISLING,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Liam Neeson's CIA thriller "Taken" bumped off "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" at the weekend box office, raking in \$24.6 million and helping fuel the first \$1 billion January in Hollywood history.

North American box office revenues were up nearly 20 percent in January over the

same period last year, reaching a record \$1.03 billion for the month. Attendance was up 16 percent over last year, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers.

"This is exactly how you want to start a year," Dergarabedian said Sunday. "I think people feel movies are a good value for their dollar. Going to a movie is a habit people aren't

willing to break."

"Taken" follows Neeson as a former CIA operative trying to track down a group of kidnappers who want to sell his daughter into the sex slave trade.

"We are thrilled. It's an all-audience movie," said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "When people come out they are going to talk about it. I think it's going to play for a long time."

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop," the Kevin James comedy about a clumsy security guard, had been No. 1 the previous two weeks. Although it dropped to second place, it earned \$14 million to boost its three-week total to more than \$83 million. Also opening this weekend was "The Uninvited," a remake of the 2003 South Korean thriller that pits two sisters against their potentially evil stepmother. It earned \$10.5 million for third place. In fourth was "Hotel for Dogs"

with \$8.7 million, followed by "Gran Torino" with \$8.6 million.

"Gran Torino," directed by and starring Clint Eastwood as a bigot who becomes a reluctant neighborhood hero, has now earned more than \$110 million, making it Eastwood's highest grossing film.

It surpassed "In the Line of Fire," which starred Eastwood and made \$102 million, and "Unforgiven," directed and starring Eastwood, which earned \$101 million. "Unforgiven" won Oscars in 1992 for best picture and best director.

"Slumdog Millionaire," which continues to collect honors this awards season, was sixth with \$7.7 million, bringing its total to more than \$67 million in 12 weeks, as it moves into wider release across the U.S.

Its director, Danny Boyle, won the top honor Saturday night from the Directors Guild of America.

The awards are "adding to

the prestige of the film in the marketplace and making it more important for the public to see," said Richard Shamban, vice president of theatrical distribution for the film's distributor, Fox Searchlight. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Taken," \$24.6 million.
2. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," \$14 million.
3. "The Uninvited," \$10.5 million.
4. "Hotel for Dogs," \$8.7 million.
5. "Gran Torino," \$8.6 million.
6. "Slumdog Millionaire," \$7.7 million.
7. "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans," \$7.2 million.
8. "New in Town," \$6.7 million.
9. "My Bloody Valentine 3-D," \$4.3 million.
10. "Inkheart," \$3.7 million



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Oil industry profits plunge; no regrets at Exxon



An Exxon tanker truck makes a refueling stop at an Exxon station in Arlington, Va., Friday, Jan. 30, 2009. Exxon Mobil Corp. on Friday reported a profit of \$45.2 billion for 2008, breaking its own record for a U.S. company, even as its fourth-quarter earnings fell 33 percent from a year ago.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

By JOHN PORRETTO,
AP Energy Writer

HOUSTON — The extraordinary profits for Exxon Mobil may be over for now, but opportunities abound even in a year that's expected to be miserable for the entire oil and gas industry.

The world's largest publicly traded oil company on Friday reported a profit of \$45.2 billion for 2008, breaking its own record for a U.S. company, even as its fourth-quarter earnings fell 33 percent from a year ago.

The huge full-year profit wasn't a surprise given crude's unprecedented rise during the first half of last year, peaking near \$150 a barrel in July. Since then prices have fallen roughly 70 percent amid a deepening global recession.

Triple-digit price swings for a barrel of crude have scattered oil majors along divergent paths as each adjusts to seismic changes in the market.

ConocoPhillips, for example, is cutting jobs and spending after posting a massive fourth-quarter loss. Royal Dutch Shell had a big loss too, but it hopes to ride out the downturn with flat spending and few, if any, layoffs.

Exxon, on the other hand, is

sitting on \$31 billion in cash and can spend as it sees fit. Some analysts have predicted Exxon will get even bigger by snapping up smaller competitors, or looking for joint ventures.

The timing is ideal as assets based on the price of oil have grown relatively cheap. Also, large producers like Exxon Mobil are finding it increasingly difficult to secure new sources of fossil fuels the old-fashioned way — exploring and drilling for them.

"If something comes along that they think is priced right and would help them on the production side, I think they'd take a look at it," said Brian Youngberg, an energy analyst with Edward Jones.

In recent years, the company has spent huge amounts buying back its own shares, and 2008 was no exception. The Irving, Texas-based company said Friday it distributed \$40.1 billion to shareholders last year in the form of dividends or share buybacks. For the same period, it spent \$26.1 billion on capital and exploration projects, up 25 percent from 2007.

Company share repurchases give individual shareholders

a bigger stake in the company, yet some critics say Big Oil focuses too much on boosting stock price, especially when compensation for executives often is tied to its value.

Exxon makes no apologies for how much it's spent on share buybacks.

"Exxon Mobil remains well positioned for the future as the direct result of our financial strength, long-term focus, effective approach to risk management and capital discipline," David Rosenthal, the company's vice president for investor relations, said in a conference call Friday.

Still, the company didn't escape 2008 unscathed, as oil prices slid 60 percent in just the final three months of the year.

Net income slid to \$7.8 billion, or \$1.55 a share, in the October-December period, the slimmest quarterly profit since 2005. The company earned \$11.7 billion, or \$2.13 a share, during the same period in 2007.

Quarterly revenue fell 27 percent to \$84.7 billion.

But both the per-share and revenue results topped Wall Street forecasts. On average, analysts expected the company to earn \$1.45 a share in the

latest quarter on revenue of \$69.1 billion, according to Thomson Reuters.

As expected, Exxon's exploration and production arm took a beating because of falling crude prices, plunging 31 percent in the quarter to \$5.6 billion and cutting into the source of two-thirds of its earnings.

Overall output for Exxon, which produces about 3 percent of the world's oil, fell 3 percent.

The company has yet to announce its capital expenditure budget for 2009, but some analysts believe it could be the only oil major in a position to ratchet up spending significantly.

Analysts and investors keep close tabs on capital spending plans because that's what producers use, in part, to find new sources oil and natural gas. Many smaller oil and gas companies are cutting budgets by 50 percent or more as they prepare for a prolonged recession that's already crushed energy demand.

"When you have a AAA balance sheet, \$30-plus billion in cash and probably the lowest cost structure in the industry, you have a lot of advantages and a lot of flexibility," said Edward Jones' Youngberg.

For all of 2008, Exxon's profit amounted to \$8.69 a share. In 2007, it earned \$40.6 billion, or \$7.28 a share.

Exxon Mobil shares fell 52 cents to close at \$76.48 Friday. They've traded in a range of \$56.51 to \$96.12 in the past year.

After several quarters of record profits, oil producers large and small are getting nailed by lower energy prices. Chevron Corp. said Friday it earned \$4.9 billion in the fourth quarter though revenue plunged 26 percent with oil prices in sharp decline. The second-largest U.S. oil company said it earned \$2.44

per share in the three months ended Dec. 31, compared with \$4.88 billion, or \$2.32 per share, in the quarter a year ago. Thomson Reuters said analysts it surveyed expected earnings of \$1.81 per share.

Chevron, based in San Ramon, Calif., said quarterly revenue dropped to \$45.2 billion, from \$61.4 billion a year ago.

For the full year, Chevron made \$23.93 billion, or \$11.67 per share, compared with \$18.69 billion, or \$8.77 per share, in 2007. Its shares fell 10 cents to close at \$70.52. Their 52-week range is \$55.50 to \$104.63.

Royal Dutch Shell on Thursday reported its first quarterly loss in a decade and Occidental Petroleum said its profit fell nearly 70 percent in the final three months of the year.

ConocoPhillips, the third-biggest U.S. oil company, kicked off earnings for the oil majors on a sour note Wednesday by posting an enormous fourth-quarter loss. In addition to lower crude and gas prices, the company was hit by \$34 billion in asset writedowns linked to the economic downturn.

BP PLC and Marathon Oil Corp. are scheduled to report Tuesday.

Last spring, executives of Exxon and the other majors — BP, Shell, Chevron and ConocoPhillips — were pressed by members of Congress to explain soaring fuel prices amid huge profits and why they weren't investing more to develop renewable energy sources.

They're getting no sympathy now that prices have fallen and industry conditions have worsened.

U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., who chairs key energy panels, again criticized Exxon on Friday for not investing enough of its profits in "job-creating industries like renewable energy." □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Australian Open

Nadal bests Federer in another Grand Slam final

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

- Rafael Nadal held off Roger Federer in another five-set Grand Slam final, keeping Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles intact for now.

Nadal became the first Spanish man to win the Australian Open when he beat Federer 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2 in a momentum-swinging, 4-hour, 22-minute final on Sunday night.

Federer, trying to equal Sampras' record, sobbed at the trophy presentation. "Maybe I'll try later. God, it's killing me," Federer said, crying. He returned to congratulate Nadal within minutes, saying: "You deserved it. You played a fantastic final."

Top-ranked Nadal, who has won five of the seven Grand Slam finals they've contested, now has



Spain's Rafael Nadal, left, hugs Switzerland's Roger Federer during the awarding ceremony after winning the Men's singles final match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

Associated Press

a major on hard courts to go with his titles on clay and grass.

He's the only man capable of a Grand Slam this season, 40 years after Australian great Rod Laver last won all four majors in one season.

"Roger, sorry for today. I really know how you feel right now," Nadal said. "Remember, you're a great champion, you're one of the best in history. You're going to improve on the 14 of Sampras."

Nadal collected the trophy from Laver on Sunday night, in the court that was named in the great Australian's honor, and put his arm around Federer.

Continued on Page B18



Kenny Perry holds his trophy after winning the FBR Open golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Perry won on the third playoff hole against Charley Hoffman.

Associated Press

By ANDREW BAGNATO

AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)

- Kenny Perry finally beat Charley Hoffman in a playoff Sunday, making a 22-foot birdie

putt on the third extra hole in the FBR Open.

After Perry bogeyed the final hole of regulation to set up the playoff, the two bogeyed and parred the first two extra holes.

FBR Open

Perry beats Hoffman in FBR Open playoff

Perry then rolled in the long putt on the 332-yard, par-4 17th to end the second straight playoff in the event. "The playoff was ugly," Perry said. "We were hitting it everywhere, having to scramble from all over the place."

Perry closed with a 2-under 69 to match Hoffman (67) at 14-under 270 at TPC Scottsdale. It was the 13th PGA Tour victory for Perry, the 48-year-old American who won three times last year and played on the winning U.S. Ryder Cup team.

"It feels kind of funny playing with all these young kids nowadays," Perry said. "But to me, this was a place I felt like I could always win." Kevin Na (68) finished third at 13 under. Na rallied from

six strokes back, but barely missed an 8-foot putt on the 18th hole that would have put him in the playoff.

Perry blew a chance to win it in regulation. Leading by a stroke, all Perry needed was a par on the 18th, a hole he birdied twice and parred once this week. But he drove into a fairway bunker and had to settle for a bogey 5. That set up the playoff, and it looked as if neither player wanted to win.

The playoff opened at the 438-yard, par-4 18th, and Hoffman and Perry drove into bunkers and settled for bogeys. "Kenny gave me a few opportunities, I gave him a few opportunities, and he happened to close the door," said Hoffman, who has one PGA Tour victory, the 2007

Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. The playoff moved to the 403-yard, par-4 10th, which Hoffman birdied in each of the first three rounds.

Hoffman shot his tee shot off a cart path and over the green, then chipped to 13 feet. Perry drove into the left rough, then hit an iron 20 feet from the cup.

Both players two-putted, and the playoff dragged on to the 17th.

That was where, in regulation, Perry had taken a short-lived one-shot lead with a birdie about an hour earlier.

This time, Perry drove to the right of the green, then chipped to about 22 feet.

Hoffman hit his tee shot into a bunker and also chipped to the fringe before missing a 34-footer for birdie. □

Steelers rally to beat Cardinals 27-23, 6th title

TAMPA, Fla. — Their Steel Curtain shredded, Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh offense ended a Super Bowl of incredible swings with a final-minute touchdown for a historic victory.

Santonio Holmes made a brilliant 6-yard catch deep in the right corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining Sunday night, lifting the Steelers to a record-setting sixth Super Bowl win, 27-23 over the Arizona Cardinals.

It was one of the most thrilling finishes to the NFL title game, certainly equaling last year's upset by the New York Giants that ended with Plaxico Burress' TD catch — with 35 seconds left, too.

But this one was even wilder. The Steelers (15-4), winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, led 20-7 in the fourth quarter, only to see Kurt Warner and the Cardinals stage a remarkable rally to go in front 23-20 with 2:37 remaining.

Warner hit All-Pro receiver Larry Fitzgerald in stride for a 64-yard touchdown with 2:37 left. Already owning a slew of postseason receiving marks this year, Fitzgerald sped down the middle of the field, watching himself outrun

the Steelers on the huge video screen.

Fitzgerald could only watch from the sideline as Roethlisberger engineered a 78-yard drive to win it in what resembled Heinz Field South. With waves of twirling Terrible Towels turning Raymond James Stadium into a black-and-gold tableau — Steelers fans supporting their beloved team, the economy be damned — Pittsburgh's offense rescued the title.

Holmes was selected the game's MVP. "Great players step up in big-time games to make plays," Holmes said. "I kind of lost a little composure, you know, but I knew our defense would give us a chance to make it back."

The stunning swings overshadowed James Harrison's record 100-yard interception return for a touchdown to end the first half. That looked like the signature play until the final quarter, when both teams shook off apparent knockout punches to throw haymakers of their own.

Big Ben and Holmes struck the last blow, and when Warner fumbled in the final seconds, the Cardinals' dream of winning their first NFL crown since 1947 were gone.

"I said it's now or never, I told the guys all the film study you put in doesn't matter unless you do it now," Roethlisberger said. "I'm really proud of the way they responded."

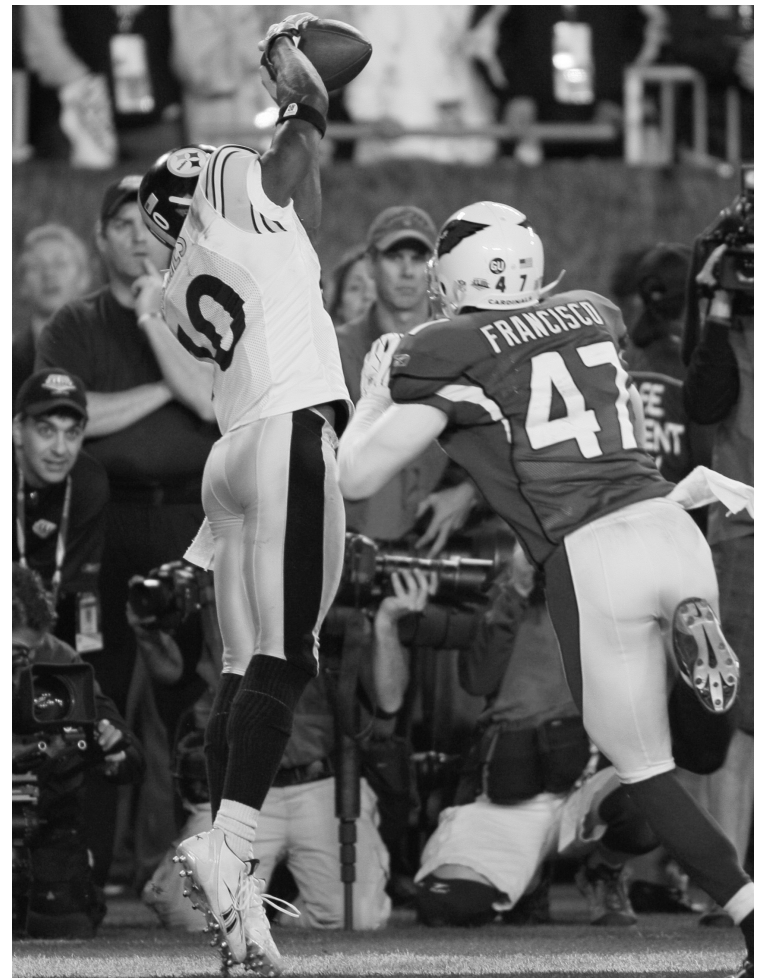
The Cardinals (12-8-1), playing in their first Super Bowl and first championship game of any kind since 1948, lost their composure after Harrison's heroics. They had three penalties to keep Pittsburgh's 79-yard drive going, a 16-play march that ended with Jeff Reed's 21-yard field goal for a 20-7 lead.

And they couldn't get Fitzgerald free until very late. But boy did he get free.

The All-Pro who already had set a postseason record for yards receiving and had five touchdowns in the playoffs was a nonentity until an 87-yard fourth-quarter drive he capped with a leaping 1-yard catch over Ike Taylor. He made four receptions on that series on which Warner hit all eight passes for all the yards. And then he struck swiftly for the 64-yarder that put Arizona within minutes of a remarkable victory.

A victory that didn't happen because the Steelers are as resilient as they come.

Pittsburgh looked like the offensive juggernaut to open



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes hauls in a 6-yard touchdown reception past Arizona Cardinals safety Aaron Francisco in the fourth quarter of the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

the game, smoothly driving 71 yards in eight plays. But the 72nd yard that would have given the Steelers a touchdown never came.

It seemingly had when Roethlisberger's short run was ruled a TD. Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt challenged, and the score was overturned, leaving Tomlin his first difficult decision.

He took the points, Reed's 18-yard field goal, the shortest in a Super Bowl since 1976.

After forcing a punt, the Steelers kept the ball the remainder of the first quarter — 11:28 in all, outgaining Arizona 140-13, getting seven first downs to one for the Cardinals. As Warner and the usually potent Cardinals' offense watched, frustrated, from the sideline, Pittsburgh plowed it in on Gary Russell's 1-yard run to make it 10-0.

When Arizona finally got the ball back, it suddenly put the Steelers off-balance with short passes — and one huge play. Warner had enough time to shine the NFL Man of the Year trophy he received just before kickoff, then hit Anquan Boldin streaking from left to

right. He was upended at the Pittsburgh 1, and Warner's lob to Ben Patrick got Arizona on the board. It was the tight end's first touchdown this season.

Arizona's defense then emulated the Steel Curtain with a big play. Bryan Robinson tipped Roethlisberger's pass high into the air and Karlos Dansby corralled it at the Pittsburgh 34. The Cardinals got to the 1, then, perhaps jealous, the Steelers' Dasserted itself — magnificently.

Harrison, the defensive player of the year, stepped in front of Boldin at the goal line, picked off Warner's throw and began a journey down the right sideline to the longest play in Super Bowl history.

Harrison ran past or through most of the Cardinals, nearly stepped out of bounds at one point, and was dragged down by Fitzgerald as he fell to the goal line. The play was reviewed as several Cardinals knelt on one knee, exhausted from the chase and disheartened by the result.

The previous longest play was Desmond Howard's 99-yard kickoff return for Green Bay in 1997. □

NHL Roundup

Bruins win fourth straight over Canadiens, 3-1

MONTREAL (AP) - Denis Wideman, Shawn Thornton and Marc Savard scored, and Tim Thomas made 27 saves to lead the Boston Bruins to a 3-1 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Sunday.

Boston beat its Northeast Division rival for the fourth time in a row, improving to 4-1 this season against Montreal. The Bruins, who beat the New York Rangers 1-0 on Saturday, have recorded points in six straight games and are 8-1-2 in their last 11.

Savard scored into an empty net with 56.5 seconds remaining to extend his points streak to eight games.

Robert Lang had a power-play goal for the Canadiens, who have lost five of six. Montreal, which was on an 11-1-2 run prior to the skid, is second in the Northeast with 62 points, 18 behind the Bruins, who lead the Eastern Conference.

Capitals 7, Senators 4

At Washington, Alex Ovechkin scored three goals for his seventh career hat trick and

second of the season to lead Washington over Ottawa.

Ovechkin scored his goals in the first two periods with Sergei Fedorov getting assists on each. Mike Green added a goal and three assists, and Eric Fehr, Alexander Semin and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for Washington.

Daniel Alfredsson scored twice for the Senators and Dany Heatley and Antoine Vermette had a goal apiece.

Predators 2, Oilers 1

At Edmonton, Alberta, Pekka Rinne made 32 saves to help Nashville beat Edmonton.

Martin Erat and J.P. Dumont scored for the Predators, who held on after Edmonton cut it to 2-1 midway through the third period on Ales Hemsky's goal.

The Oilers (25-21-3) missed an opportunity to gain ground in the Western Conference. They remain tied for sixth with Dallas and Minnesota. □



Bob Bryan, left, and Mike Bryan of the United States hold the trophy after beating India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas in the final of the Men's doubles at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Associated Press

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Continued from Page B16

"To receive this trophy from Rod Laver is a dream for me," he said. "Rod, thanks very much. It was an amazing two weeks for me."

Nadal advanced to the final after holding off fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco on Friday in 5 hours, 14 minutes - the longest match in the tournament's history. Federer had a straight-sets win over Andy Roddick the

previous night, but said the difference in preparation had no influence on the final.

He said the fact he'd missed the Sampras record at a tournament he's won three times didn't make the loss any worse or easier to take.

"Honestly, no," he said. "I mean, it's more like, in the first moment you're disappointed, you're shocked, you're sad, you know, then all of a sudden it overwhelms you.

"The problem is you can't go

in the locker room and just take it easy and take a cold shower. You're stuck out there. It's the worst feeling. ... it's rough."

Federer, so dominant when he won three of the four majors in 2006 and 2007, has now lost finals on three different surfaces to Nadal.

He hasn't given up hope of beating the 22-year-old Spaniard.

"For sure," he said. "I didn't spend 4 1/2 hours out there (not) believing it."

Nadal, who has four consecutive titles on clay at Roland Garros and beat Federer on grass in a five-set epic at Wimbledon last year.

He is 13-6 overall against Federer and ended the Swiss star's 237-week streak at No. 1 last year after claiming the Beijing Olympic gold medal. Federer, who turned around that season with a U.S. Open title, saved two championship points from 15-40 in the eighth game of the fifth set but sent a forehand long on the third match point.

Nadal flopped onto his back, then got up and raced to shake hands.

The players put their arms around the other's shoulders at the net as they walked off the court.

Although Federer actually won one more point - 174-173 - his serve let him down all

too frequently. He connected on only 51 percent of his first serves, and it seemed as if all of his six double-faults came at critical times.

And as the pressure ratcheted up in the fifth set, it was Federer who wilted, not Nadal. Federer had six winners and 14 unforced errors in the set, while Nadal had just two unforced errors and dropped only three points in four service games.

Federer was only able to convert 6 of his 19 breakpoint chances. Nadal converted 7 of 16.

Both players started tight, committing uncharacteristic errors. Knowing that weak shots would be punished, they were pushing the limits.

They exchanged service breaks in the first two games. Normally calm on court, Federer pumped his fist after breaking for a 4-2 lead only to double-fault when facing breakpoint in the next game. Nadal got the key break with Federer serving at 5-5. The crowd was stunned when he smacked a forehand wide on an easy short ball to make it 15-40, and Nadal followed with a forehand passing shot winner, then held for the set.

With Nadal seemingly getting to everything and ripping winners, Federer was looking tentative and hesitating to

charge the net.

But he started putting winners together and cutting his mistakes in the second set. After Nadal broke for a 4-3 lead, Federer broke the Spaniard's next two service games, taking a 5-3 lead after converting his fifth breakpoint of the game. He then held to take the set.

Then the match intensified.

Amid a series of rallies lasting more than 20 shots, Nadal saved six breakpoint chances in his last two service games in the third set, and Federer fended off a set point while serving at 5-6.

A lunging backhand volley winner gave Nadal a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker, earning him chants of "Rafa!" and Federer double-faulted.

Federer saved five breakpoint chances while serving at 2-2 in the fourth set, then broke Nadal in the next game for a 4-2 edge.

He closed with a service winner to even it at two sets apiece.

Nadal broke Federer for a 3-1 lead and the clock ticked past midnight in the next game, taking the tournament into a third week.

It was the first Australian Open men's final to go to five sets since Mats Wilander beat Pat Cash in 1988, the first at Melbourne Park. □

Former heavyweight champ Johansson dies at 76

By STEPHAN NASSTROM

AP Sports Writer

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Ingemar Johansson, the Swede who stunned the boxing world by knocking out Floyd Patterson to win the heavyweight title in 1959, has died. He was 76.

Johansson died Friday at a nursing home in Kungsbacka on the Swedish west coast, his daughter Maria Gregner said Saturday.

Johansson was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia more than 10 years ago when he lived in Stockholm.

Known as "Ingo" to Swedes, Johansson knocked out Patterson in the third round at New York's Yankee Stadium on June 26, 1959, to win the heavyweight title. He floored the American seven times before referee Ruby Goldstein stopped the fight 2:03 into the round.

Back home, hundreds of thousands of Swedes listened to the live radio broadcast at 3 a.m. as Johansson became only the fifth heavyweight champion born outside the United States. Swedish newspapers printed extra editions with Ingo on the cover.

"What he did was the biggest feat ever in Swedish sporting history," his longtime friend Stig Caldeborn said. It earned Johansson The

Associated Press' Male Athlete of the Year honors in 1959, only the second Swede to win the award.

Patterson avenged the upset loss a year later in the rematch in New York, knocking Johansson out in the fifth round. In March 1961, the Swede floored Patterson twice in Miami before being knocked out in the sixth round of the rubber match. Patterson died in 2006.

Johansson had four more fights—all wins, one of them a knockout of England's Dick Richardson for the European title in 1962—before retiring the following year. He finished his career with a 26-2 record, including 17 knockouts.

A well-schooled upright boxer, Johansson had a good jab that helped set up a tremendous knockout right hand dubbed "Ingo's Bingo" and the "Hammer of Thor."

Johansson went 61-10 with 31 KOs as a decorated amateur. His biggest disappointment came at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, where he was disqualified in the heavyweight final for not giving his best.

Johansson always claimed that he backed away in that fight in an attempt to lure his American opponent Ed Sanders into his right-hand counter. □

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NBA Roundup

LeBron scores 33 in Cavs' 90-80 victory over Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) - LeBron James scored 33 points and got some timely help from Mo Williams and Daniel Gibson in Cleveland's 90-80 win over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

With James resting, Williams and Gibson outscored Detroit by themselves in a 15-2 run to take a 73-68 lead early in the fourth quarter.

James sealed the victory on a driving layup, an assist, 3-pointer and free throw to put the Cavs ahead by nine with 2 1/2 minutes left.

The Central Division-leading Cavs have won six of their last seven and are 12 games ahead of Detroit. Allen Iverson scored 22 points for the Pistons, who have lost nine of 12 and are 21-21 with him.

Magic 113, Raptors 90

At Toronto, Dwight Howard had 29 points and 14 rebounds, and Jameer Nelson added 18 points and 10 assists as Orlando never trailed in its win over Toronto.

Mickael Pietrus scored 22 points and Rashard Lewis had 15 for the Magic, who led by as many as 24 and have won three straight following back-to-back losses to Boston and Miami.

Orlando broke it open with a 20-6 run to start the second half, keyed by two 3-pointers each by Lewis and rookie Courtney Lee. Toronto trailed 87-65 after three quarters.

Jose Calderon scored 16 points for Toronto, reserve

Joey Graham had 14 and Andrea Bargnani had 12.

Celtics 109, Timberwolves 101

At Boston, Paul Pierce had 36 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Ray Allen scored 22 as Boston beat Minnesota for its 11th straight game.

Al Jefferson, the centerpiece of the trade that brought Kevin Garnett to Boston and set the stage for the franchise's 17th NBA title, scored 34 points for the Timberwolves. Jefferson also had 11 rebounds for his 26th double-double of the season.

Boston led by as many as 21 in the third quarter, 71-50, before Minnesota scored 15 of the next 17 points. The Timberwolves got within five in the fourth quarter, 94-89, with 5:20 left, but Allen hit a jumper and Pierce made a pair of free throws to make it a nine-point game.

Garnett missed the game with a high fever.

Kings 122, Thunder 118, OT

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 37 points as the Kings ended an eight-game losing streak with a win over Oklahoma City.

Bobby Jackson had six of his 11 points in overtime. The veteran guard put Sacramento ahead for good with a floater in the lane and followed with a jumper to make it 120-116 with 1:42 left.

Russell Westbrook had a career-high 34 points and added eight assists for the

Thunder. Kevin Durant scored 33, Jeff Green had 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Nick Collison added 10 points and 14 boards.


Francisco Garcia had 17 points, Jason Thompson scored 15 and Spencer Hawes finished with 13 for the Kings. Both Garcia and Thompson fouled out in the fourth quarter. □


Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James goes to the basket against the Detroit Pistons in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Associated Press



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week#1-17 Occidental Grand-Exec. Studio, OceanFront - US\$9,000	week# 9, La Cabana- 1Bdr delux R#401d, OceanFront- US\$20,000	week# 9 - DiviLinks - Studio R#4205, poolv. - US\$15,000
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-2Bd Supreme, OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week# 8- La Cabana Studio. R#107b, Oceanview- US\$7,500
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-1B Royal Club Grand Le.-US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613, Pool Ocean-US\$18,000	week# 3 - DiviVillage - studio R#5508, Golf poolv.-US\$8,000
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-1B Delux, OceanView- US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	week#3-4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416, Oceanfront-US\$25,000pw
week#2-17 Occidental Grand-JR Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	Floating W#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000
week# 1-17 Occidental Grand-JR Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001, Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17 Occidental Grand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanFront-US\$23,000	week#5-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#206, Oceanfront US\$20,000
week#2,3,4,-La Cabana-1Bdx R#401d, OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanView-US\$26,000	week#6-7-DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#302, Oceanfro.-US\$22,000pw
week# 5 & 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000	Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week# 6 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 1 - Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031, Ocean/pool-US\$25,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, Pool Ocean-US\$15,000	week#1 Costa Linda - 2Bdr R#1014, OceanView-US\$24,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a-, Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 3 & 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr R#2142, Oceanv-US\$13,000pw	week# 6&7, Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541, Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week#1-2,-3 -DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226, Ocean/P-US\$16,000pw
Platinum W#1-17, Marriott Surf - 3bdr, OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 4, Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2012, Oceanview.-US\$24,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108, Poolv - US\$14,000
For Rent: DiviPhoenix week#4&5 2009 R#108,- US\$1,500 perwk	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010, Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 4-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#2105, Poolview-US\$16,000
week# 8, La Cabana -2Bdr R#301e, OceanFront-US\$25,000	week# 5 - Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#3004, Ocean/Pool-US\$26,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214, PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R#4584, Poolview - US\$8,000	week# 4&5, Costa Linda -2Br 4th floor, OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302, OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 1,2,3,4 Aruban Res-1Bdr. R#1586, poolview- US\$8,000pw	week# 4 & 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108, OceanFR-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105, OceanPo, US\$11,500
week# 1,2,3,4 Aruban Res-1Bdr. R#3586, poolv- US\$7,000pw	week# 2, Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584, PoolView-US\$.8,475	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303, Pool Ocean-US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510, poolview- US\$14,000	week# 1, Paradise B.V - 1 Bdr. R#227, Oceanfront-US\$15,000	week# 1-RIU Palace - 2Bdr R#269, Oceanfront-US\$18,000
For Rent: ParadiseB- week 4&5 R#108, poolv- US\$1,500pw	week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207, Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c, Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanSide -US\$33,000	week# 3&4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101, Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a, Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17. Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129, Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11, Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49, PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339, OceanFr-US\$8,000	week#8, Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000	For rent: week 8, Renaissance- R#2536, 1Br-OceanV-US\$1,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c, OceanVi-US\$9,000	week# 8&9, Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w.	week#10. DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121, Poolview-US\$8,000

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Savaneta	584-7000
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Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

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Warda Polis	582-4000
BGD Oranjestad	582-8877

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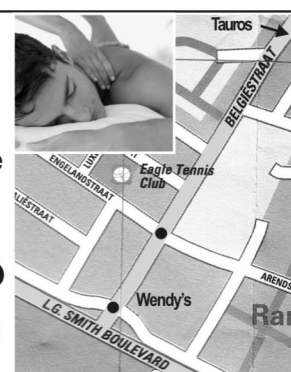
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Guerrilla colombiana libera a cuatro efectivos de las FFAA



BOGOTA(Reuters) - La guerrilla de las FARC liberó el domingo en la selva a cuatro efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas de Colombia que mantuvieron secuestrados durante meses, en la primera entrega unilateral de la guerrilla desde febrero del 2008, informó la Cruz Roja Internacional.

Los tres policías y el soldado, que formaban parte de un grupo de rehenes que las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) buscan intercambiar por 500 rebeldes presos, fueron entregados en

un lugar de la selva del sur del país a una misión humanitaria liderada por la senadora Piedad Córdoba y que contó con el apoyo logístico de Brasil. La liberación estuvo antecedida por un confuso incidente que de acuerdo con integrante de la misión humanitaria se originó en operaciones militares. Con la liberación unilateral las FARC buscan ganar espacio político e imagen internacional después de los golpes recibidos de parte de las fuerzas de seguridad que incluyeron las muertes de importantes líderes, el rescate de Ingrid

Betancourt y la desertión de miles de combatientes, según analistas.

Los efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas, que llevaban secuestrados entre 19 y 24 meses, están siendo evacuados en uno de los helicópteros que facilitó Brasil para la misión humanitaria a un aeropuerto de la ciudad de Villavicencio en donde serán recibidos por sus familiares, precisó la Cruz Roja.

Para las próximas horas se espera la liberación a la misma misión humanitaria del ex gobernador del departamento

del Meta Alan Jara y del ex Valle Sigifredo López. □
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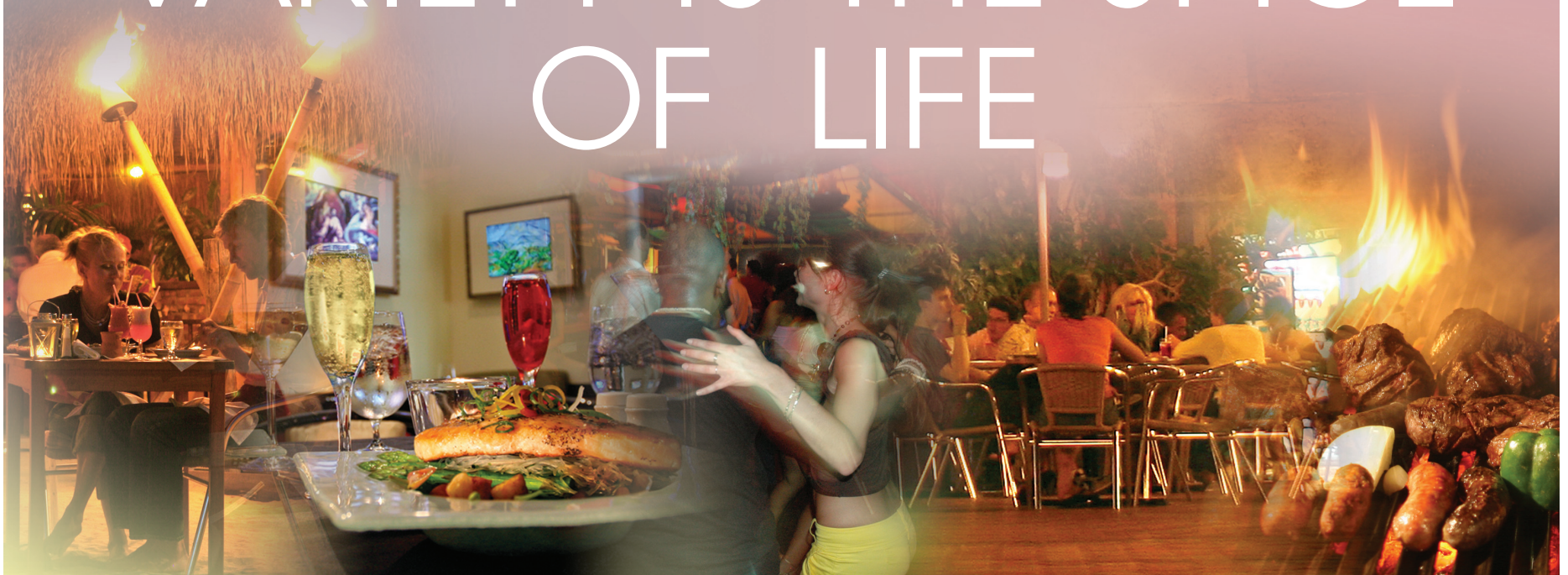
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